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The People.

A Weekly Newspaper for All Classes.

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Saturday Evening.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.)
THE GERMAN EMPEROR AT STOCKHOLM.

STOCKHOLM, July 27.—The Emperor William drove out this morning, accompanied by King Oscar, the Crown Prince of Sweden, Prince Henry of Prussia, and Count Herbert von Bismarck, on which occasion his Majesty inspected the Katharina elevator, and paid a visit to the National Museum and the Central Telephone Station. Between one and two p.m. luncheon was served at the castle, and afterwards his Majesty paid a visit to the Katarinaborgs Kyrka, containing the ashes of a long line of Swedish monarchs. Between four and five the Emperor will drive to Drottningholm, where dinner is to be served. Many of the inhabitants are inspecting the different vessels of the German squadron, where they are most kindly received by the commanders. The officers and the crew of the squadron yesterday paid a visit to some of the public buildings of the capital and to other places of interest. The Emperor William and Prince Henry yesterday received from the King of Sweden the Grand Cross of St. Olaf Order. The Emperor has conferred upon Baron Bilot, Minister of State, the Grand Cross of the Black Eagle.

COPENHAGEN, July 28.—The Emperor William will arrive here on Monday morning, probably at eleven o'clock. His Majesty will embark on board the Imperial yacht Hohenzollern in the evening, and the whole squadron will sail at three o'clock on Tuesday morning.

TURCOMAN RISING IN PERSIA.

Great Loss of Life.

TEHRAN, July 28.—The Yomood Turcomans, in the Province of Astrabad, have revolted, and the town of Astrabad is threatened by the insurgents, who are plundering the neighbouring villages. Great loss of life is reported. The inhabitants of Astrabad have telegraphed an appeal for help to the Shah and the governor of Khorassan, as the local governors and troops seem powerless to suppress the rising. A scarcity of food prevails in the town and at the Persian frontier fort of Akkaleh. Trade is at a standstill, and all the shops are closed.

MR. STANLEY'S EXPEDITION.

An Unfavourable View.

A correspondent of the Paris Gaulois has had a conversation with M. Janssens, the Governor-general of the Independent State of the Congo, and has telephoned it to that journal from Brussels. He states that in his opinion M. Janssens regards the utter loss of the Stanley Expedition as certain, though he will not say so. Being questioned relative to the announcement of the arrival of a White Pasha at Bah-el-Gazelle, M. Janssens is reported to have said:—"I cannot credit those reports, though Stanley did nevertheless certainly mention the idea he had of making a round. It is most improbable he ever dreamed of pushing on so far as Bah-el-Gazelle. Unfortunately, we must return to a much sadder hypothesis. It appears only too certain that Stanley will be found to have been attacked on his march. The expedition, reduced to a handful of men, will not have been able to resist the enemy, who—but I will say no more. Tippoo Tib and Bartlett are on the march; let us still hope. A great and most agreeable surprise is, perhaps, in store for us."

BIRTH OF A GERMAN PRINCE.

Her Majesty the reigning Empress Augusta Victoria of Germany gave birth to a prince at half-past one o'clock on Friday morning at the Marie Palace, Potsdam. Mother and infant are both doing well. The news was telegraphed to the Emperor at Stockholm, who at once sent a message of congratulation to his consort, and expressed his ratification at the happy event.

ACTION FOR SEDUCTION AGAINST A MEDICAL STUDENT.

At Leeds Assizes, on Friday, before Mr. Justice Cave, an action was concluded in which James Blades, a farmer, formerly of Simmonstone Hall, a shooting-box of Lord Wharncliffe, near Hawes, on behalf of Mary Jane Blades, his cousin, a girl of 16 years, sued Osborne Thomas Pinck, the son of the vicar of Hardrow, and a medical student at Glasgow, for damages for the seduction by the defendant of Miss Blades. Mr. Cyril Dodd appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. E. Tindal Atkinson and Mr. Newson for the defendant. It was alleged by the plaintiff that Miss Blades was seduced by the defendant on the 14th September, 1886, when she was under 15 years of age, and that the intimacy was renewed on the 27th December of the same year. The evidence showed that Miss Blades was confined on the 7th August last, and on behalf of the defendant it was contended that the birth of a child on that date could not be reconciled with the date of the alleged seduction. Defendant further denied that he had ever been improperly intimate with Miss Blades, witness being called to prove that he was in Glasgow at the time of the alleged seduction, and that on the night of the 27th December, 1886, he was at home with his father and sisters. Counsel having addressed the jury, his lordship summed up, pointing out that the question for the jury to decide was practically whether or not the defendant was the father of Miss Blades' child. Having referred to the improbability of a birth taking place as the result of an intimacy so long anterior, his lordship said that with regard to the evidence of what occurred on the 27th December, it was quite obvious that Miss Blades had made a mistake in giving that as the date of the second intimacy. The statements of other witnesses showed that the 28th was the date which she meant to give. There was undoubtedly evidence to show that the young man was on terms of unwise intimacy with the girl, but the evidence as to the paternity of the child, on which the case really hinged, was less convincing. The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff for £40. Mr. Tindal Atkinson asked his lordship to stay execution in order that the opinion of the Divisional Court might be taken on the question whether the verdict was not against the weight of evidence. His lordship said he would consider the application, and afterwards consented to stay execution on condition that £40 was paid into court within the week.

THE EAST-END MATCH GIRLS.

A mass meeting of the match girls employed at Messrs. Bryant and May's factories was held in the Stepney Meeting Hall on Friday evening, for the purpose of confirming the rules of a trade union amongst themselves. The following resolution was proposed:—"That a trade union of women matchmakers employed in factories be formed, and those present pledge themselves to do all in their power to make the union a success." Other matchmakers in the East-end were invited to co-operate. Miss C. Black, of the Women's Protective League, seconded the resolution, which was supported by Mrs. Besant and others, and carried unanimously. The hall was crowded, upwards of 1,000 women and girls being present. Mrs. Annie Besant was elected first secretary of the union, and Mr. Herbert Burrows treasurer.

THE VOLCANIC ERUPTION IN JAPAN.

Nearly One Thousand Lives Lost. Details have been received from Shanghai of the eruption in the Bandaean volcanic region, Japan, fifty leagues from Yokohama. Nearly 1,000 persons have perished, including 100 visitors to the Thermal Springs, and several villages have been destroyed. A fresh crater has been formed, and is still casting up rocks and ashes.

DEATH FROM WANT AT MILTON.

An inquest was held at the Milton Infirmary on Friday evening concerning the death of Mrs. Emma Frances Henderson, aged 47 years, the widow of Mr. Henry Henderson, a grocer and cheesemonger, formerly carrying on an extensive business in Kennington, Rotherhithe, Brixton, and other parts, who died under sad circumstances. The evidence went to prove that the deceased had become gradually reduced, and during the last nine months had been living with her four children in a room in Brunswick-place, Milton. In consequence of the distressed condition the deceased was in, the relieving officer visited the premises on the 15th inst., and then discovered the unfortunate woman and her children in a sad state from neglect and want. The place was totally devoid of furniture, and there was not a vestige of food. Dr. Forbes Ellis, the medical superintendent of the Milton Infirmary, said the deceased died on the 24th inst. She was in a fearfully emaciated and prostrate condition when admitted, and nothing could have saved her life. Her four children were very dirty and covered with vermin, and when fed with Anglo-Swiss condensed milk they devoured it in a very ravenous manner, showing that they must have been without nourishment for days. At first they were too weak to swallow, and the food had to be forced down their throats. Since the children had been under his charge they had wonderfully improved. He had no doubt they had been subjected to great privation. A post mortem examination proved that death had resulted from want of food and proper nourishment. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence.

Poisoning Mystery at Hackney.

Dr. MacDonald held an inquiry at the Shoreditch Town-hall on Friday respecting the death of Benjamin Woodin aged 28, a boot-finisher, late of 38, John's-terrace, Hackney-road—Joseph Woodin, brother of the deceased, deposed that on Friday last his brother came to his house and told him that he had been poisoned. He said that that morning, at the house occupied by the young woman, he was living with, he had been given a cup of tea containing two-penny worth of oxalic acid. He went to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Frances Cullen, a single woman, living at 39, Shaftesbury-street, New North-road, deposited that the deceased had been living with her during the last fortnight. She had been keeping company with him for years. He left her house on Thursday day, and she had never seen him since. He was not in the house on Friday at all, and she made no tea for him. She did not use oxalic acid, nor had she ever had it in the house.—Edward Maclean, of 38, John's-terrace, said the deceased had lodged with him up to about three weeks ago. On Friday he came back, looking very ill. He told witness that he had been poisoned while in bed at his girl's house, and that he had been thrown out of the house by a man called "Harry," who had been "courting his girl." Deceased's face was very much bruised and swollen. On Monday evening he seemed better, but died the next morning.—Frances Culien, recalled, admitted that she knew the man "Harry," and that he had been in her house all night, and that the deceased had heard of it.—Dr. Wigg, of 243, Hackney-road, deposed that he was called to the deceased just before death. The cause of death was poisoning by oxalic acid.—The jury asked that the inquiry might be adjourned for the police to try and trace who bought the poison, and also for the attendance of the man "Harry."—The inquiry was accordingly adjourned.

EXTRAORDINARY BEHAVIOUR AT THE ZOO.

At the Marylebone Police Court on Friday, a well-dressed, gentlemanly-looking man, named Walter Hamilton, 27, described as a gentleman, of Ladbroke Gardens, Notting Hill, was charged with stealing a bell bird, worth £10, the property of Mr. Philip Lucas Slater, the secretary of the Zoological Society.—Henry Preston, keeper in the parrot house at the gardens, said he heard a great noise amongst the birds about two o'clock, and on going into the house he saw the prisoner hurrying away from the cage where the bell bird stood. On looking about he missed the bird, and then went after the prisoner, whom he overtook in the gardens. He stopped him and asked him about the bird, and the prisoner replied that he knew nothing about the bird. Witness saw a feather on the prisoner's coat, and when another keeper spoke to him the prisoner put his hand into his coat pocket and pulled out five feathers like that of the bell bird. Jeffcoat the keeper of the elephant house had just previously seen the prisoner enter the gentleman's lavatory, and immediately afterwards leave. Jeffcoat searched the place and found the bird in a pocket handkerchief with the name of Goodfellow on it, down the pan of the w.c.—Mr. Abraham Dee Bartlett, superintendent of the gardens, said the prisoner was brought to him, and accused of having stolen the bird. The prisoner replied that he would willingly pay £20 if he would let him go, for he did not wish to be further bothered about the matter. That was, however, refused, and the prisoner was given into custody. The bird was dead and very wet, apparently having been drowned. The feathers found on the prisoner were undoubtedly those from the bell bird.—Mr. Cooke ordered a remand.—Mr. Bartlett says the bird is a native of Brazil, and is the only specimen of the bell tribe in this country.

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THE WALTHAMSTOW MYSTERY.

ARREST OF BARBER.

A man, who is alleged to be William Barber, the missing chemist's assistant, was arrested at 9.30 on Saturday morning in High-street, Brentford. Police-constable Buchanan was on duty in that thoroughfare when he met the man coming out of a coffee-shop. Noticing that his appearance answered the description circulated of Barber, the policeman took him to the station, where he was charged. He remained at Brentford pending the arrival of a police-officer from Walthamstow.

The Scotland-yard authorities confirm the statement that Barber was arrested at Brentford on Saturday morning, and say there is no doubt as to his identity. He had evidently been in hiding.

HIS IDENTITY ADMITTED.

The Press Association Brentford correspondent telephoning at one o'clock on Saturday afternoon says:—Barber admitted his identity, and added that Mrs. French took the chloroform while he was in the shop. He endeavoured to restore her, but failing, became nervous, changed his clothes and left the house. Barber was afterwards handed over to the Walthamstow police. (Details will be found on page 7.)

THE TUNBRIDGE WELLS MYSTERY.

A reward of £100 has been offered by the Baltic Saw Mill's Company for the discovery of the mysterious stranger who murdered the man Lawrence at Tunbridge Wells, on the 20th inst. The case continues to excite great local sensation.

THE THREAT TO KILL MR. GLADSTONE.

Francis Egon Clutter, charged with writing a letter threatening to murder Mr. Gladstone, was brought up at Liverpool on Saturday on remand. The prosecuting solicitor said the prosecutor did not wish to press the case. Mr. W. H. Gladstone had been summoned to Scotland in consequence of a death in the family, and they would be willing that the prisoner be bound over to keep the peace. The stipendiary acceded to this course, and the prisoner was bound over for six months in the sum of £50.

(Details will be found on page 13.)

A SCHOOLMASTER FINED.

At Longtown, Cumberland, on Thursday, Mr. Ambrose Byas, master of a board school in the district, was fined £2 and costs for flogging excessively one of his scholars, 12 years of age. The boy had played truant, and his punishment consisted in being held on a desk by six other boys while the defendant administered forty strokes with a birch rod, and repeated it twice at half-hourly intervals. The defence was that the boy's misconduct required exemplary punishment; but the magistrates considered that inflicted excessive and cruel.

THREE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY PONIES DROWNED.

The steamer Copeland, from Iceland to Leith, which went ashore on Wednesday in the Pentland Firth, is expected to become a total wreck. The crew of sixteen men and nine tourist passengers were saved; but 350 out of a cargo of 400 Icelandic ponies were drowned, the remainder being landed by Stromy fishermen. Mr. Eider Haggard, the novelist, was among the passengers.

ACTION AGAINST THE DISTRICT RAILWAY COMPANY.

Mr. Justice Stirling heard a motion made on behalf of Mr. James Willing to restrain the Metropolitan District Railway Company from continuing to employ Mr. Alfred Powell as their managing agent, and Messrs. Partington and Co. as their advertising agents, on the ground that Mr. Powell had been in the habit of receiving bribes from Messrs. Partington, from whom also it was alleged that Mr. Forbes, chairman of the District Railway Company, received presents. Counsel on behalf of all the parties named repudiated and denied the charges, and his lordship refused the motion.

A GOVERNMENT STEAM LAUNCH IN COLLISION.

On Friday evening at the Government steam launch Estelle was proceeding from Fort Westmoreland to Queenstown, having on board a large number of soldiers, she came into collision with the screw steamer Racer, which was returning from sea. The Estelle struck the tug on the port side, damaging some of her iron plates. She had her own stem and bulwarks burst in. The collision caused some excitement among the soldiers.

CHARGE OF ROBBING CHILDREN.

Elijah Pullen, 30, of respectable appearance, was charged at Guildhall with robbing children in Liverpool-street on Wednesday morning. William Hughes stated that about nine o'clock on Wednesday morning he was walking along Liverpool-street, when he saw prisoner talking to three little children. He went up to her and heard her say to one of them who was carrying a parcel, "Give me your parcel; your mother is at the station, and you are to go to her." The child gave up the parcel, and accused walked away with it. Witness followed her, stopped her, and asked her what she was going to do with the parcel. She replied, "I am going to take it to her" (meaning the child's mother). He said, "I will go with you." After walking about for some time the prisoner said, "I have made a mistake; it was at Liverpool-street Station I was to meet her." Witness went back with her to Liverpool-street, and then gave her into custody. —Police-constable Pearce said that the accused was given into his custody for robbing the child. At first he said that the mother had told her to take the parcel, but afterwards said, "I am very sorry, I own I have done wrong." The parcel contained a shawl and a mackintosh. —An officer of the metropolitan police force said that he had about a dozen charges to prefer against the prisoner for robbing children in the metropolitan district. —Mr. Alderman Gray thought the best thing to do was to transfer the boy to Worship-street Police Court, there being no many metropolitan district charges.

OUTRAGE IN IRELAND.

Some three hundred yards of boundary wall at the residence of Colonel Perse, stipendiary magistrate, near Kilmainham, has been torn down and the masonry flung on the roadway. Colonel Perse has taken an active part in the administration of the Crimes Act, and the occurrence is attributed to this circumstance. The colonel intends to apply to the grand jury for compensation.

THE BOARD OF WORKS SCANDAL.

The Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the working of the Metropolitan Board of Works, resumed its sittings on Friday at the Sessions House, Westminster, under the presidency of Lord Herschell.—Mr. James Beal said he had taken considerable interest in the Metropolitan Board of Works from its origin, and in his opinion it began badly and with corruption. The original northern outfall works were not carried out in accordance with the contract, and as a result a large sum of the ratepayers' money was wasted. He complained that three members of Parliament—Mr. Jackson, Mr. Doulton, and Mr. Staniland—received £10,000 each to become sureties for the contractors, and he thought it indecent that they should afterwards have been placed upon the Essex Reclamation Committee.—Lord Herschell: What do you suggest they got the £10,000 for?

The Witness: For being surety for Mr. Furness.

Lord Herschell: We are not here to inquire into the conduct of the members of Parliament.

Mr. Jackson and Mr. Doulton are both dead.

The Witness: Mr. Ridley offered to deposit the £30,000, but the board would have the securities.

The finances of the board have always been in a most unsatisfactory condition, as they have invariably kept too large a balance at the bank.

They borrowed from the public at 3 per cent., and left the money at the bank at 15, sometimes to the extent of millions.

In reply to Mr. Bosanquet, the witness said that Mr. Furness was paid money for allowing rubbish

to be shot at filling-in for the Thames Embankment instead of using good soil.—Mr. E. Webster

gave evidence as to contracts accepted by his father. The books of the firm were now destroyed.

—Mr. Mark Judge, a member of the Metropolitan Board of Works, condemned many of the recent practices of the board in transacting its business.

The commission adjourned until Tuesday.

MEETING OF THE BOARD.

At the weekly meeting of the Metropolitan Board of Works on Friday, a letter from Mr. E. Webster, M.P., announcing his resignation, was read and ordered to be entered on the minutes.—Mr. Cook, the deputy chairman, moved: "(1) That the by-law made by the board on the 23rd of December, 1887, and confirmed on the 2nd of March, forbidding the soliciting or gathering of money in or upon the board's parks and open spaces be amended; and that, subject to the consent of the Secretary of State, the following be declared to be an offence:—The soliciting or gathering money in or upon the parks, gardens, and open spaces under the board's control, except within the limits of the areas upon which public meetings are allowed to be held. Any person committing the offence mentioned above will be subject to a penalty not exceeding forty shillings. (2) That the clerk do advertise the amended by-law, and apply in due course to the Secretary of State for his allowance of the same."—The resolution was adopted.—Mr. Cook stated that the total sum which would be required for the purchase of Clissold Park was £26,000. Towards this the board would contribute £25,000.

ANOTHER LADY WANTED HIM.

At Leeds Assizes on Friday, a Mrs. Ayre, who carries on the business of a confectioner

CHRONICLES OF THE "CROOKED" CLUB.

BY
JAMES GREENWOOD,
AUTHOR OF "TATTERDON TALES" AND "OUR SATURDAY NIGHTS."

IV.—THE FALSE-BOTTOMED COFFIN.

Tony Prickles, a rough-looking man, but who at present was doing an excellent business by letting out to hire costermongers' barrows, had applied to be admitted a member. Having been proposed by a responsible "Crooked" at the appointed time, he was led into the lodge blindfold, of course. He was by no means a nervous man, and when the president had lengthily addressed him respecting the preliminaries to initiation, he remarked,

"If I rightly understand the rules of this 'ere club, on admitting new members you are a bit particular as regards some branches of crookedness. You won't, for instance, let a man who had done a murder join you?"

"Certainly not," replied the president promptly; "and if you have ever put your foot in it to that extent, say so at once, and take yourself off."

"But there are different kinds of murder, you know—it was only a dog I took the life of, what then?"

"...you have got a crooked story to tell, so that we may judge you on your merits, out with it," returned the president bluntly, "and don't play the fool."

"But you wouldn't bar a man because he had killed a dog—no matter how he managed it. I won't have that question answered before I can go on."

"You may have killed five-and-forty dogs, and still not be crooked enough for our company. Don't waste our time and your own, if you can't put in a stronger claim than that."

"You wait and hear before you jump at conclusions. I've asked my question, and I've had an answer. Don't forget that when I've told what I'm going to tell, you sum me up."

"Here goes, then. There was an old man who lived in the same house where I lived. It don't matter how long ago it was. He lived in back room at the top of the house, and I lived with the wife and youngsters in the front room. He was a lonely old man, and he had the character of being a miser who had a whole lot of money hoarded. He was too old to do any kind of work, but he had been a cabinet-maker.

"He was a mysterious being and miserable old file, and though he had occupied that same room over so many years, nobody ever knew what it contained, except from what they could make out by peeping through the keyhole, which was a very small one, on account of it belonging to a patent lock he had put on his door, the inside of which he had likewise lined with thin sheets of iron. That very likely was the reason why people thought he was a miser. But I never thought that he was. He was out nearly all day long, and he always locked the door and took the key with him. If he only came down into the yard, or to fetch his farden's worth of milk, he always locked his door. We could hear him doing it. He wasn't very talkative, but I used to speak to him sometimes, and chaff him about the gold he'd got hid away.

"If you hadn't got any money stowed away," says I, "why did you have a patent lock put on your door, and cover the inside of it with iron? And, says I, 'why keep a dog?' He kept a dog that lived and slept in the same room with him, and was a rough-haired white mongrel, of no breed in particular. It wasn't very large, but it was a rare savage one, gentle enough towards the old man and to my wife, but a vicious beast to any one else. 'Why do you keep a dog?' says I. 'If you are so poor, you can't afford it. You don't feed him too high, nor a mighty knows, but he costs you something, don't you know?' At last, one day when I had been chaffing him in that manner, says he:

"I'll tell you what I never told to any one else. I'm afraid of being murdered in my bed. I once went to a wizard, one who had dealings with the devil and was awfully clever, and he told me that unless I took every care that would be my fate. That's why I make my door more secure, and why I'm at the dreadful expense of keeping Judy—that was the name of the dog. As for ever having money by us, we're went on, 'the dread that haunts me is that when I die the parish will have to bury me.'

"But I am all right as regards having a good coffin," says he. "I've provided for that, though I don't suppose, living in the next room though you do, you ever suspected such a thing. I am a cabinet-maker, as you know, by trade, and I have bought the bits of elm one at a time as I saved up the money to pay for them, and I've got it done all complete, but the plate for the name and the date. And neighbour," says he, "I've got a favour to beg of you. I have been very ill lately, though I haven't been to any doctor, and I believe I shall not be here much longer. I want you to promise to see me put in my own coffin when I am gone. I don't ask you to take the trouble for nothing. Do as I ask you, and you are welcome to all that is in my room, and I promise further that you shall find half a sovereign in this old tobacco box of mine, which I wish you to keep for my sake.'

"It was a rum kind of request, but I had a sort of liking for the old chap.

"Let me have a look at the coffin," says I, "I can scarce believe what you have been telling me unless you do."

"He didn't like to show it me, as I could tell by his manner, but he didn't like to refuse, and he let me into his room. Sure enough there was the coffin (there was nothing else in the place worth speaking of, except an old bed and bedstead, two chairs, a rickety deal table, and a dog kennel), in one corner, quite finished and ready as he said it was. It looked a rare good piece of workmanship, and I went and examined it while the old man held the lighted candle (it was at night time). It was standing upright.

"It is good solid stuff," says he, tapping the lid with his knuckles.

"So it seems," says I, rapping the bottom with my knuckles. He was very deaf, or he would have known from the sound the discovery I made. The coffin had a false bottom.

"Not being quite a bornfool I saw through the whole thing in a flash. He was a miser, after all, and one of the greediest of the kind, for he was artfully contriving to have his money buried with him!"

"Say you will do what I ask of you," says he, "Swear it, and make a poor and well-nigh penniless old man happy." So I promised, all the time meaning to have every blessed shilling there was between the double bottom of the coffin, you may depend.

"The question was, should I go for it without loss of time, or wait until he kicked the bucket? Anyhow, I couldn't rest satisfied till I had inquired further into it. So I watched my time, and got a key to open the patent lock on his door, and one day when he had gone out in I went. I had forgotten all about the dog. He never barked, or gave any sign of being in the room till I opened the door, and then he was at me like a lion. It was lucky I had a hammer in my hand. I took it in, thinking perhaps I might want it, and a chisel as well. I made a kick at him and missed him, and he came at me again, and I let him have me with the hammer and down he went, and he didn't get up again.

"Then I examined the coffin. I was right about the false bottom, and at one end there was a piece neatly wedged in to cover the hollow. I eased it out with the chisel, but the hollow was empty. I might have known that it would be. It was not likely that he would stow his money there—most likely it was in bank notes, and easily carried about—but until he felt pretty sure that the end was coming. That was what I should have to wait for. The dog was still lying though dead, but there wasn't a spot of blood.

or anything to show how he had been killed, and when the old man came back and found it dead—of course I looked the door again—he would think no other than that it had died a natural death. 'It is a good job,' thinks I, 'that the brute is out of the way. He might have proved awkward another time.'

"But the cussed thing wasn't dead at all."

"When the old man came home I listened inside my room, making sure to hear him make a fuss about it, and it gave me a bit of a turn to hear him say, 'Here's your supper, old girl,' and the dog barking and jumping up at him. He was only stunned after all, and came to of his own accord.

"But he didn't forget me.

"I met him on the stairs next morning, and up went a ridge of hair along his back and he showed his teeth, his eyes gleaming like live coals. But he was half afraid of me, and didn't bark. He backed into a corner and let me pass."

"Well, in less than a fortnight after the old man died. He kept his bed only two days, and I waited on him, as he didn't want anybody else to see the coffin. I kept my eye on it when I went in and out. I had placed a little bit of white cotton in the crack of the moving piece that covered the opening of the false bottom, and in the evening of the first day of his taking to his bed the piece of cotton had been shifted; which I set down as a good sign. My mind was easier then. The parish people came, and they had no objection to the old chap being buried in his own coffin, and he was put in it ready to be fetched away next day. I meant going into the room when all was quiet at night time."

"But first I managed to get rid of that infernal dog that sat under the coffin as it stood on the trestles, whining and shivering. Of course it wouldn't do for me to try and entice him away. The only one beside his old master he ever took kind to was my wife, and he would follow her anywhere. It was at Bermondsey where we were living, and after a lot of trouble she coaxed him out of the room and got him as far as the railway station and took him to Norwood, where she gave him the slip, and came by train by herself.

"Well, I thought it was all right then. That night, after the undertaker had been and screwed him down, and when everybody in the house was abed and asleep and the place quiet, I took a light to see what I could find. The coffin was of course, still on the trestles, so that I had to kneel down to the job placing the candlestick atop of the coffin. I had taken out the sliding piece that concealed the false bottom, when all of a sudden he came at me.

"The dog did, I mean. Lor a 'mighty only knows how he found his way back, or how he got into the house without being seen. He must have got into the room when that screwing-down chap was there. He didn't bark. It was more like the howl of a mad dog the noise he made when he sprang out and pinned me. I was in my shirt sleeves, and he fastened on the thick part of my bare arm. I shrieked out with the fright and the pain, and all being so still my voice rang through the house and awoke my wife in the next room. In half a minute two other lodgers—brothers they were—came swarming up to see what the matter was. I didn't see 'em come in though, for I had fainted away, and they found me on the floor with nothing to show a reason why or to account for my arm being torn and bleeding, for the dog had left go his hold and slunk away. But what must have puzzled them as much as anything there was the old man's coffin and with the secret of its false bottom plain to be seen.

"The two brothers helped my wife carry me into our room. They were a pair of bad ones, as I knew of old, and I suppose they were sharp enough to see the game I was up to. They went back to the old man's room after they had carried me to mine, and what there was in the false bottom the thundering thives took. They swore to me afterwards that they didn't even know anything about the false bottom, but that finding what they thought was a bit broken out of the side of the coffin, they put it back and knocked a nail in to keep it tight. I don't know how much they got. I only know that the Leger was run about a week after, and they both went down to Doncaster each with a new suit of clothes.

"But I didn't think so much of the loss, as having my revenge on that infernal dog."

"I was more frightened than hurt as regards the bite on my arm, so that I was able in a day or two to look after him. He stuck to the old man's room, crouching under the bedstead, which was an iron one, with open lattice laths to rest the mattress on. I got on the bedstead, and between the iron laths dropped a noose over his head, and then I had the beggar at my mercy.

"There wasn't much of that for him!

"I had made up my mind how I would serve him. I meant killing him by hunger and thirst. I bought a strong leather muzzle, and I strapped on his jaws tight, and I chained him up in the cupboard. He couldn't howl, he could only growl through his nose and glare at me when I went near him, but I didn't mind that.

"I got my satisfaction out of him. I bought him plenty of meat every day, and I took and laid it just beyond the length of his chain, so that he could smell it, and not taste it, and I took him a basin with fresh water in it every morning, and put it down within an inch of his nose. And so I kept him for five days and nights, when I found he had strangled himself, straining against the metal collar after the victuals and drink. And so we were quits.

"And now, if you think that I am crooked enough to join you, take off this blessed banker-chair and give me a drink, for my throat is as dry as most as that brute's was, when at last it came to his poking out his tongue to reach the water."

"I am of opinion, my friend, that you will die of thirst, like that poor tortured beast did, if you wait until you are allowed to drink with us," remarked the president sternly. "How is it to be, gentlemen? Thumbs up for yes!"

"And every member raised his hands—his clenched fists rather.

"Not a thumb was visible.

"No, 'tis the verdict!" said the president to the blindfolded rascal; 'and if I may add a word to that, I will say it is a pity that that bite on your arm went for nothing. Many a better man has died raving mad who has less deserved it. Now you can go."

"And the too crooked one was led out of the room and down the stairs, too astonished to say a word.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT LIVERPOOL.

A destructive fire occurred at Liverpool on Thursday afternoon in a large warehouse on the south side of the Sandom Dock, used by the West India and Pacific Steam Company for the storage of merchandise from their vessels. The fire originated in the south-east corner of the warehouse and spread towards the west end. The shed is about 150 yards long and 15-feet high, and occupies the whole quay space on the south side of the dock. When the fire brigade reached the spot, the contents of the warehouse, principally cotton, were blazing furiously, and it was soon seen that the efforts of the firemen would be entirely futile, the fire having obtained a good hold of several thousand bales of cotton which were stored together. Attention was then directed to a couple of vessels which were lying alongside of the quay, and in imminent danger of catching fire. These were removed as quickly as possible from danger, and a better view could then be had of the hold the flames had. It could be seen that although the wind was blowing from the westward, the fire, instead of going in its direction, went in its fail, and it is supposed that this was caused by the doors at the east end of the shed being left open, thus causing a current of air to run in a westerly direction. At the west end of the shed there was a wall and this prevented the fire from totally destroying the warehouse, but as it was about one hundred yards of the building was entirely consumed, only the side walls being left standing.

At an inquest held on Saturday at the Royal Free Hospital on the body of a labourer, aged 50, who met his death whilst employed in some building operations in the Clerkenwell-road, on the 11th inst., a verdict of accidental death was returned.

THE CHARGES OF FRAUD AND FORGERY.

At Westminster Police Court this week, Mrs. Gordon Baillie, alias Frost, Whyte, Bruce, &c.; Robert Peveral Bodley Frost, said to be her husband; and Robert Gignier, butler, were placed in the dock for the fifth time, on remand, charged with general conspiracy to defraud, and obtaining goods and money by means of worthless cheques and false representations, from a number of tradesmen and others. Mr. St. John Wontner appeared on behalf of the Public Prosecutor; Mr. H. J. Lewis defended Mrs. Gordon Baillie; and Mr. Duerdin Dutton was for the other prisoners.—At the last hearing a charge was gone into against the female prisoner of getting the lease of a house in 1881 at Walhampton and furniture by false pretences, but Mr. Wontner said he did not propose to tender any further evidence in respect to it.—Mr. Charles White, chemist, of Buckingham Palace-road, stated Gignier gave him an order and obtained change for a cheque for £2 10s., which was dishonoured.—William Gilseil, assistant to Mr. Harman, of 42, Strand, said that on the 16th of June the male prisoner drove up in a brougham, and selected two hats of the value of £1 1s. 6d. on credit. On June 25th Mrs. Frost ordered another hat, produced a cheque for £2 1s. on Herries, Farquhar, and Co., and received the change, 1s. The cheque was dishonoured.—Mrs. Sarah Franks, milliner, of Mortimer-street, Cavendish-square, said that early in May Mrs. Gordon Baillie came to her and ordered a dress. At another visit Mrs. Frost said she wanted change for a cheque, so that she might give money to a poor woman. (Laughter.)—Mr. Wontner: Charity begins at home. (Renewed laughter.)—Witness: The cheque was for £5, and was signed "Gordon Baillie," and endorsed "Frost." She paid it to her bankers, and it was dishonoured. Directly the report appeared in the newspapers the person Marks, described by the witness Lyons as a sweater, received during the last twelve months £1,700 1s. 9d., or average weekly wages amounting to £28 18s. 7d. In reference to Lyons' statement that a deputation of the men had waited on the directors, complaining that work was given to outside sweepers while they were left idle, he said that the men in question had refused to do a certain class of work, and it consequently had to be given out. As the stores employed these people in the busy season they were bound to employ them during the slack season. The work was not given out in this way to punish the men. He denied that work was given to outside sweepers, while their own workmen were sitting idle and seeing it go out. Marks might get about one-twentieth of the work of the stores. The stores employed altogether about twenty outside firms.

THE SWEATING SYSTEM. Army Contracts.

Mr. Nepean, director of Army contracts, was examined on Monday before the Sweating Committee of the House of Lords, Lord Onslow, in the absence of Lord Dunraven, presiding. In reference to the clothing of the Army and Militia, he stated that the cloth was obtained by contract, and distributed to the Government factory at Fimlico, to the contractors, or the regiment, to be made up into clothing. During the last three years the cloth—kersey, serge, and tweeds—obtained averaged two million yards a year. All the Government clothing was made from material provided by the Government, and in no case did the contractor get his own material for the Army and Militia. He thought about 1,200 hands were employed in the factory, and there was an order that outside hands were not to be employed. The factory clause was inserted in all the Army contracts, and that had the effect of abolishing the employment of outside hands to the best of witness's belief. Sweepers could not take a contract and comply with the terms of it so long as that clause was in it. The contract for the supply of clothing to the metropolitan police, which was partly paid for out of the rates and partly out of the Consolidated Fund, was about to terminate, and it had been arranged that the factory clause should be adopted.

Police Clothing.

Mr. W. J. Gunton, of Messrs. Gunton and Son, contractors for police clothing, was next examined, and stated that his firm did not give out a single garment to sweepers, the whole clothing being made at their factories at Crews and Swindon. In consequence of the improvement in machinery, he thought clothing could be made as cheaply in factories as by sweating.—Mr. Plum, manager of the military outfitting department of the Army and Navy Co-operative Society, stated that the person Marks, described by the witness Lyons as a sweater, received during the last twelve months £1,700 1s. 9d., or average weekly wages amounting to £28 18s. 7d. In reference to Lyons' statement that a deputation of the men had waited on the directors, complaining that work was given to outside sweepers while they were left idle, he said that the men in question had refused to do a certain class of work, and it consequently had to be given out. As the stores employed these people in the busy season they were bound to employ them during the slack season. The work was not given out in this way to punish the men. He denied that work was given to outside sweepers, while their own workmen were sitting idle and seeing it go out. Marks might get about one-twentieth of the work of the stores. The stores employed altogether about twenty outside firms.

Other Evidence.

Mr. Grosvenor, chairman of the Army and Navy Stores, corroborated the previous witness, and stated that Marks' workshop was an excellent one, as he had personally inspected it. He believed the same remark applied to Wilkie.—Mr. Marks was next examined, and stated that the average hours in his factory were from twelve to fourteen hours a day, and on very rare occasions, the workmen had been engaged for fourteen hours. He paid two-thirds of what he received to his men. He also did work for the Civil Service Stores.—Mr. E. S. Williams, of Finbury-road, Brighton, said he knew the prisoners. In February of the present year he let Frost a set of chambers, No. 5, Westminster Chambers. The arrangement was to pay the rent monthly in advance, and as this was not adhered to witness employed a broker to distract. Directly a man was put in possession the prisoner quit the chambers. Only the first month's rent was paid. Mr. Griffith Williams, tailor, of 20, Spring-street, Paddington, said Gignier called and told him he was going about a situation, and he wanted a suit of livery made. Later on he called again and said he had got a situation with Mrs. Gordon Baillie, a rich lady from Australia, who had a large estate in Lancashire. (This announcement seemed greatly to amuse the female prisoner, who, as she sat in the dock with a bunch of roses in her lap, buried her face in her hands and laughed loudly.) Witness called on Mrs. Gordon Baillie, and she selected a suit of "green for her servant." (A laugh.) No cheque was given, but he was never paid for the clothes, which were supplied in due course.—Mr. Julian Thomas, journalist, of the Age, Melbourne, said he knew a man named Knight Aston, a professional vocalist, who was still living. He only knew the female defendant and Frost by reputation. Knowing so much of Mrs. Gordon Baillie's proceedings in the colonies, he wished to see her.—Mr. Lewis: At the present moment it has never been shown that this lady was married to Mr. Knight Aston.—Mr. Wontner: But the certificate of the marriage will be produced at the proper time.—An old gentleman named Bonham, who had been in court every day during the hearing of the case, said he wished to prefer a charge against Mrs. Gordon Baillie of defrauding him of £150 in 1884. Mr. Wontner said he would submit his case to the Public Prosecutor.—Mr. Lewis renewed his application for bail. Substantial securities could be given. The charges were all misdemeanours.—Mr. Wontner: I don't wish to say anything to prejudice this lady. (Mrs. Gordon Baillie), but she evaded arrest, and is a lady of wandering propensities. (Laughter.)—Mr. Wontner: But the certificate of the marriage will be produced at the proper time.—Mr. Lewis said it would be part of his defence, in defending Mrs. Gordon Baillie, to consider the propriety of proving her a married woman.—The Female: We were married as English visitors by a Catholic priest.—Mr. Lewis: No doubt the cause of proving the marriage was to rest on him if I suggest coercion on the part of the husband. The woman said that she divorced Mr. Glyn in Australia, and therefore Frost was her husband.

A WIFE BEATER SENT TO PRISON.

DEVLIN THE BARBER.

By B. L. FARJEON.

AUTHOR OF "GREAT PORTER SQUARE," "THE NINE OF HEARTS," "THE TRAGEDY OF LEATHER-STONE," "MILES FARREBROTHER," ETC.

INTRODUCTION.

IN WHICH REFERENCE IS MADE TO A STRANGE UNFATHOMABLE BEING THROUGH WHOM INSTRUMENTALITY AN AWFUL MYSTERY WAS SOLVED.

The manner in which I became intimately associated with a fearful mystery with which, not only all London, but all England was ringing, and the strange, inexplicable Being whom the course of events brought to my knowledge, are so startling and wonderful, that I have grown to believe that by no effort of the imagination, however wild and bewildering the labyrinth into which it may lead a man, can the actual realism of our everyday life be outrivaled. What I am about to narrate is absolutely true—somewhat of an unnecessary statement, for the reason that human fancy could never have invented it. To a person unfamiliar with the wondrous life of a great city like London the story may appear impossible, but there are thousands of men and women who will immediately recognize in its features with which they became acquainted through the columns of the newspapers. I venture to say that the leading incident by which one morning—it was but yesterday—the great city was thrilled and horrified can never be entirely effaced from their memories. Dark crimes and deeds of heroism, in which the incidents are pathetic or pitiful, draw even strangers into sympathetic relation with each other. These events come home to us, as it were. What happened to one whose face we have never seen, whose hand we have never grasped, may happen to us who move in the same familiar groove of humanity. Our hopes and fears, our joys and sorrows, our duties and temptations, are the same, because we are human; and it is this common tie of kinship that will cause the story of Devlin the Barber to be received with more than ordinary interest. Now, for the first time is revealed, in these pages, the strange manner in which the fearful mystery in which it was enshrouded was unravelled. The facts are as I shall relate them, and whatever the impression they may create, a shuddering curiosity must inevitably be aroused as to the nature and movements of the inscrutable Being through whose instrumentality I was made the agent in revealing what would otherwise have remained for ever hidden from human knowledge. By a few incredulous persons—I refer to those to whom nothing spiritual is demonstrable—the existence of this Being may be doubted; but none the less does he live and move among us this very day, pursuing his mission with a purpose and to an end which it is not in the power of mortal insight to fathom. It is not unlikely that some of my readers may have come unconsciously in contact with him within the last few hours.

CHAPTER I.

IN WHICH AN ACCOUNT IS GIVEN OF THE GOOD FORTUNE WHICH BEFEL MR. MELLADEW.

I am a struggling man—the phrase will be well understood, for the class to which I belong is a large one—and I reside in a neighbourhood which is neither very poor nor very fashionable. I have, of course, my friends and acquaintances, and among the most intimate of the former is a family of the name of Melladew.

Mr. Melladew is a reader in a printing office in which a weekly newspaper is printed. Mrs. Melladew, with the assistance of one small servant, manages the home. They had two daughters, twins, eighteen years of age, named respectively Mary and Elizabeth. These girls were very beautiful, and were so much alike that they were frequently mistaken for one another. Mrs. Melladew has told me that when they were very young she was compelled to make some distinguishing mark in their dress to avoid confusion in her recognition of them, such as differently coloured socks or pieces of ribbon. The home of the Melladews was a happy one, and the sisters loved each other sincerely. They were both in out-door employment, in the establishments of a general linendraper and a fashionable dressmaker. Mary was in the employment of the linendraper—Limbird's, in Regent-street. It is a firm of wide repute, and employs a great number of hands, some of whom sleep in the house. This was the case with Mary Melladew, who went to her work on Monday morning and did not return home until Saturday night. Elizabeth, or Lizzie, as she was always called, was employed by Madame Michel, fashionable dressmaker, in Baker-street. She went to her work at half past eight every morning, and returned home at half past seven every night.

The printing office in which Mr. Melladew is engaged employs two readers, a night reader and a day reader. Mr. Melladew is the day reader, his hours being from nine in the morning till seven in the evening. But on Saturdays he has a much longer spell; he is due in the office at eight in the morning, and he remains until two or three hours past midnight—a stretch of eighteen or nineteen hours. By that time all the work for the Sunday edition of the weekly newspaper is done, and the outside pages are being worked off on the steam presses.

Now, upon the Saturday morning on which, so far as I am concerned, the enthralling interest of my story commences, certain important events had occurred in my career and in that of Mr. Melladew. Exactly one month previous to that day the firm in which I had been employed for a great many years had given me a month's notice to leave. My dismissal was not caused by any lapse of duty on my part; it was simply that business had been for some time in a bad state, and that my employers found it necessary to reduce their staff. Among those who received notice to quit, I, unfortunately, was included. Therefore, when I rose on Saturday morning, I was in the dismal position of a man out of work, my time having expired on the day before. This was of serious importance to me. With Mr. Melladew the case was different. In what unexpectedly occurred to him there was bright sunshine, to be succeeded by black darkness.

He had visited me on the Friday night, and I perceived at once that he was in a state of intense and pleasurable excitement.

"I have come to tell you some good news," he said.

For a moment I thought that this good news might affect myself, and might bring about a favourable turn in my affairs; but Mr. Melladew's next words dispelled the hope.

"I am the happiest man in London," he said. I reflected gravely, but not enviously, upon my own position, and waited for Mr. Melladew to explain himself.

"Did I ever mention to you," he asked, "that I had a brother-in-law in Australia?"

"Yes," I replied, "you have spoken of him two or three times."

"He had almost passed out of my mind," said Mr. Melladew, "it was, until quite lately, so many years since my wife heard from him. He is her brother you know, and his name is Portland. That was my wife's name before we were married—not Richard, of course, but Portland." He laughed, and rubbed his leg with his right hand; in his left hand was a letter. "It was about eight months ago that we received a letter from him, asking us to give him information about our family and circumstances. He did not say anything about his own, so we were left quite in the dark as to whether he was rich or poor, or a married man or a bachelor. However, my wife answered his letter, and sent him the pictures of our two girls, and in her letter she asked whether he was married and had a family, and said also that she would know what to think of it. Happy girls, happy father and mother too."

"And happy father and mother too," I said.

"Yes, yes," he said with great feeling, "and happy father and mother too."

It was in no sanguine spirit that I contrasted his

Southampton, you see. But that is not the only surprise in it."

I took the letter, and read it. It was, indeed, a letter to give pleasurable surprise to the receiver. Without any announcement to Mr. Melladew of his intention, Mr. Portland had left Australia, and was now in Southampton. He intended to start by an early train on Saturday morning for London, and would come straight to his brother-in-law's house. In the letter he referred to the questions put by Mrs. Melladew. He was a bachelor, without family ties of any kind in Australia. Moreover, he had made his fortune, and it was the portraits of his two nieces which were the main cause of his return to England. Their beauty had evidently made a deep impression upon him. He spoke of them and of Mrs. Melladew in the most affectionate terms, and said it was a great pleasure to him to think that he was coming to a home which he hoped he might look upon as partly his own. He sent his warmest love to them all, and in pleasantly tender words, the meaning of which could scarcely be mistaken, he despatched a message to be given to his "dear nieces," to the effect that "their ship had come home." I handed the letter back to Mr. Melladew, and expressed my gratification at the good news.

"It is good news," he said, gleefully, "the best of news. I knew you would be pleased. I am wondering whether it is a large or a small fortune he has made. My wife says a large one."

"And I say a large one," I remarked.

"What makes you of that opinion?" inquired Mr. Melladew.

"Well, in the first place there are so many large fortunes made in Australia."

"That is true."

"Then, money being so much more plentiful there than here, a man gets to think less of a little than we do. His ideas become larger, I mean. At any time these last dozen years a hundred pounds would have been a God-send to me, and I should have thought of it so—"

"Would I?" interposed Mr. Melladew.

"But if you and I were in a land of gold, we should, I dare say, think much more lightly of a hundred pounds. I wish I had emigrated when I was first married; I had the chance, and let it slip. But it's no use crying over spilt milk."

"Not a bit of use," said Mr. Melladew. "Life's a perpetual grind here, and I am truly grateful for the light this letter has let upon us. You've given me two reasons for thinking my brother-in-law's fortune a large one. Have you any others?"

"Well, he speaks of your daughters' ship having come home. That looks as if he meant to provide for them."

"It does look like it," said Mr. Melladew; and I saw that my arguments had given him pleasure.

"My wife has a reason, also, for thinking so. She says, when Dick—that is her brother, you know—went away he declared he would never come back to England unless he could come back a very rich man. 'And,' says my wife, 'what Dick said, he'd stick to.' She is sure of that. It's wonderful, isn't it? He didn't have a sovereign to bless himself with when he left England, and now—but it's no use speculating. We shall know everything soon. You will understand my feelings; you have children of your own."

I had indeed, and it made me rueful to think of them. Getting another situation in such hard times was no easy matter.

"It isn't for myself," resumed Mr. Melladew, "that I am overjoyed at the better prospect before us, it is for my girls. Perhaps it means that they will not have to go out to work any longer. They are good girls, but they are so pretty, and have such engaging ways, that I have often been disturbed by the circumstance of their not being so much under my own and their mother's eyes as we would wish them to be. It could not be helped hitherto. There's the question of dress, now. You can manage tolerably well when they're little girls; a clever woman like my wife can turn, and twist, and cut up old things in a way to make the little ones look quite nice; but when they become young women, with all sorts of new ideas in their pretty heads, it is another pair of shoes. It's natural, too, that they should want a little pocket money to spend upon innocent pleasures and harmless vanities. We were young ourselves once, weren't we? We found we couldn't afford to give the girls what they wanted. They saw it, too, so they made up their minds, without saying a word to us, to look out for situations for themselves, and for months they haven't been a farthing's expense to us. They even give their mother a trifle a week towards the home. Good girls, the best of girls. I should be a miserable man without them. Still, as I said, I have been uneasy about them, there are so many scoundrels in the world ready with honeyed words to turn a girl's head; and it hurts me to think that they have their little secrets which they don't ask us to share. Now, thank God, it will be all right. My brother-in-law will be here to-morrow, and when he sees Lizzie and Mary he will be confirmed in his kind intentions towards them. They can leave their situations, and if any man wishes to pay them attentions he can do so in a straightforward manner in the home in which they were brought up."

He was in the blithest of spirits, and I cordially renewed my congratulations on his good fortune. In return, he condoned me on the un-promising change in my own prospects. I was not very cheerful—no man could be in such a position—but I am not in the habit of magnifying my misfortunes to my friends, and I plucked up my spirits.

"You will soon get another situation," said Mr. Melladew.

"I hope so," I replied; "I cannot afford to keep long out of one."

"It may be in my power to give you a lift," he said kindly. "Who knows what may turn up in the course of the next few hours?"

I attached no significance to this not uncommon remark at the time it was uttered, but it recurred to me afterwards, charged with sad and terrible import. We fell to again discussing the matter of which he was full.

"I am almost ashamed of my good luck," said Mr. Melladew, "when I think what has happened to you."

"A man must accept the ups and downs of life with courage," I said, "and must put the best face he can upon them."

We were true friends, and I had a sincere respect for him as a worthy fellow who had faithfully performed his duties to his family and employers. He was passionately fond of his two daughters, and frequently spoke of them as the greatest blessing in his life. It was, indeed, delightful to witness the affection he bestowed upon them in the happy home of which he was the head. They were girls of which any man might be proud, being not only beautiful, but bright, and witty, and full of animation.

Mr. Melladew and I chatted together for another half hour, and then he wished me good night.

"It is fortunate," he said, "that I got away from the office an hour earlier than usual. I shall be at home when Lizzie returns from her work, and I want to be the first to tell her the good news. How excited she will be! There was a friend at the house last night, who told us our fortunes. Lizzie is very fond of having her fortune told. 'There, father,' she says, 'didn't my fortune say that I was to receive a letter? And I've got one.' As if there was anything out-of-the-way in receiving a letter! Last night she was told that a great and wonderful surprise was in store for her. Well, there is, but I am certain the fortuneteller knew as much about its nature as the man in the moon."

"And Mary," I said, "Will you tell her to-night?"

"No," replied Mr. Melladew, "we will wait till she comes home to-morrow. When she sees her uncle from Australia sitting in my arm-chair, she won't know what to think of it. Happy girls, happy father and mother too."

"And happy father and mother too," I said.

"Yes, yes," he said with great feeling, "and happy father and mother too."

It was in no sanguine spirit that I contrasted his

good luck with my bad, but had I suspected what the next few hours had in store for him I should have thanked God for my lot. We have reason to be profoundly grateful for the ills we escape.

CHAPTER II.

I AM THE RECIPIENT OF TERRIBLE NEWS.

On Saturday morning I rose early, with the strange feelings of a man whose hopes of life had been suddenly and violently wrenching out of their usual course. I wandered up and down the stairs, and into all the rooms in the house, and to the street-door, where I stood looking vacantly along the street, perhaps for the situation I had lost, as though it were something I had dropped by accident, and could pick up again. Two or three neighbours passed and gave me good morning, and one paused and asked if I was not well.

"Not well!" I echoed, somewhat irritably: "I am well, quite well. What makes you think otherwise?"

"Oh," he answered apologetically: "Only seeing you here, that's all. It's so unusual."

He passed on, looking once or twice behind him. Unusual? Of course it was unusual. Everything was unusual, everything in the world, which seemed to be turned topsy-turvy. If the people in the street had walked on their heads instead of their feet it would not have surprised me very much. I should have regarded it as quite in keeping with the fact that I was standing at my own street-door in idleness at half past eight o'clock on a Saturday morning. I could not remember the time when such a thing had occurred to me.

Standing thus in a state of semi-stupefaction, the postman came up and gave me a letter. This recalled me to myself.

"Now," thought I, as I turned the envelope over in my hand, "whom is it from, and what does it contain?"

At first I had an unreasonable hope that it was from my employers, imploring me to come back, but a glance at the address convinced me that it was a foolish hope. The writing was strange to me, and the envelope was a common one, and was fastened with sealing wax, bearing the impression of a thimble. I opened and read the letter, and although it did not contain the offer of a situation, or hold out the prospect of one, the contents interested me. I shall have occasion presently to refer to this letter more particularly, and shall at present content myself with saying that had it not arrived this story would never have been written. While my wife and I were at breakfast we spoke of it, and I said it was my intention to comply with the request it contained.

Over breakfast, also, we reviewed our position. During my years of employment I had managed to save very little money, and upon reckoning up what I had in my purse and what I owed, I arrived at a balance in my favour of a little less than four pounds, which represented the whole of my worldly wealth. A poor look-out, and was reflecting upon it gloomily, when my good little wife, with a tender deprecative smile, laid before me on the table a Post Office savings' book.

"What is this?" I asked.

"Look," she replied.

The book was made out in her name, and the small deposits, extending over a number of years, made therein, showed a credit of more than twenty pounds.

"Yours?" I said, in wonder. "Really yours?"

"No," said my wife. "Yours."

My heart beat with joy; these twenty pounds were like a reprieve. I should have time to look about without being tortured by fear of immediate want. I drew my wife to my side, and embraced her. Twenty pounds, with which to commence over again the battle of life! Why, it was a fortune! How the little woman had contrived to save so much out of her scanty household money was a mystery to me, but she had done it by hook or by crook, as the saying is, and she now experienced a true and sweet delight in handing it over to me.

"Well," said I rubbing my hands cheerfully,

"things might look worse than they do—a great deal worse. We have a little store to help us over compulsorily idle days, and thank God all the children are well."

It was much to be grateful for, and we kissed each other in token of our gratitude, and also as a pledge that we would not lose heart, but would baffle bravely on.

I had just finished my second cup of tea when the street door was hastily opened, and my friend Mr. Melladew staggered, or rather fell into the room, with a face as white as a ghost. His limbs were trembling so that he could not stand, and my wife, much alarmed, started up and helped him into a chair.

On this special morning we had breakfasted late, and as my wife was assisting Mr. Melladew, the clock struck ten.

It sometimes happens that the most ordinary occurrences become of unusual importance by reason of circumstances with which they have no connection. Thus it was that the striking of ten o'clock, as I gazed upon the white face of my visitor, filled me with an apprehension of impending evil.

"Good God!" I cried. "What has happened?"

My thought was that there had been an accident to the train by which Mr. Melladew expected his brother-in-law from Southampton, but I was soon undeceived. It was difficult to extract anything intelligible from Mr. Melladew in his terrible state of agitation; but eventually I was placed in possession of the following particulars.

Mr. Melladew had risen early and had left his wife abed, and, as he supposed, his daughter Lizzie. It was Mrs. Melladew's custom on Saturday mornings to take half-an-hour extra in the way of sleep, and Mr. Melladew would prepare his own breakfast on these occasions. He did so on this morning, and left his house at twenty minutes to eight. At eight o'clock punctually he was sitting at his desk in the printing office, reading proofs. Everything was going on as usual, the only pleasant difference being the extraordinary lightness of Mr. Melladew's heart as he thought of his rich brother-in-law from Australia, perhaps at that very hour stepping into the train for London, and of his two darling children, Lizzie and Mary. He did not, however, allow this contemplation to interfere with the faithful and steady discharge of his duties, and his work proceeded uninterruptedly until half-past nine, when he sent his young assistant, a reading boy, into the composing-room with the last proofs he had read, telling him to bring back any more that he was ready. A workman at the galley-press had just pulled off a column of newly set-up matter, and the lad, without waiting for it to be delivered to him, took the slip from his assistant, and returned quickly to the reading-room. Mr. Melladew, receiving the slip from his assistant, was about to commence arranging the "copy," which the lad had also brought with him, when a compositor rushed in, and snatching both slip and copy from Mr. Melladew's desk, hurriedly left the room.

"What's that for?" inquired Mr. Melladew.

"I don't know, sir," replied the lad; "but there's something 'up' in the composing-room. The men are all standing, talking in a regular bustle."

OUR OMNIBUS.

THE M.P.

"It is odd," I remarked to a brother senator the other evening, "that our Irish friends on the other side of the House should be so fond of calling people 'cads'." "Why odd?" Well, people who live in glass houses should not, you know, throw stones." "Ah, you're all wrong tongue 'gentlemen,' insomuch as none of Mr. Parnell's 'items' ever apply it to themselves."

Seventy-two years ago the *Times* was thundering—very small thunder it was in those days—against English emigration to the continent. National bankruptcy was declared to be almost inevitable unless drastic means were adopted to stop this exhausting drain. The whirr of Time has certainly brought round a very remarkable change. Our present clamour is against the deluge of foreign emigrants which drowns our labour market. But there is a noticeable difference between the two cases. In 1816, it was the emigration of well-to-do English folks that the *Times* denounced; in 1888, it is the influx of pauper aliens that sets John Bull's back up.

There is talk on the Opposition side of the House about raising a subscription to pay any expenses incurred by Mr. Parnell in meeting the *Times* charges. A ten pound note from each Separatist member would go a long way to discharge the legal bill, but if that did not suffice, recourse might be had to Patrick Ford. It would not be the first time nor the second of Mr. Parnell's being indebted to him for monetary assistance.

As all men know, Sir Wilfrid Lawson is a champion teetotaller, both in theory and practice. None the less is it the fact that he purveys most excellent wine at his dinner parties—such Paradoxical tipple as might tempt an anchorage to get comfortable. A story goes that Sir Wilfrid was lately expostulated with by a temperance saint for thus placing temptation in sinners' ways. "It's all right," saidly replied the baronet. "What is the worth of virtue that cannot withstand temptation?"

All the provincial Separatist papers are in agreement that their cause will suffer serious discredit if the Trafalgar-square disturbances are not permanently discontinued. I am rejoiced that they have awoke to that fact. Perhaps the *Daily News* and the gutter print of Northumberland-street will follow suit. It is simply marvellous that any person, however stupid—Separatists are very stupid a rule—could have ever supposed that the grotesque antics of Messrs. Graham and Conybeare would promote Home Rule. In the House those eccentric members are regarded as—well, it might be a breach of privilege to mention the sort of esteem in which they are held.

The failure of Mr. Gladstone's memory is becoming very marked. This does not appear to any sensible extent in the reports of his speeches, because the "gallery" ever kind to old members, makes the necessary emendations. But among ourselves, this symptom of senile decay is much commented upon, the question naturally presenting itself as to how long the Opposition can continue to be led by one who cannot carry in his mind the essential points of even a brief debate.

There are two members of the Parliamentary community whom Unionists hold in particular aversion. These are Sir Thomas Grove, who represents South Wiltshire, and Mr. Hingley, who sits for North Worcestershire. Both got in as Unionists, and both have gone right over to the Separatists, but neither has the common honesty to resign his seat and stand the chances of re-election. Such conduct is simply inexcusable—it amounts to a flagrant breach of contract. No wonder, then, that the Unionist members look askance at the two turncoats and shun their company.

Some people have expressed wonder that Mr. Labouchere should have entered into correspondence with Patrick Egan, the absconded secretary of the defunct Land League. There is nothing odd in that—"birds of a feather," you know. Besides, Mr. Labouchere loves notoriety, and he rains a trifle of that by including among his circle of acquaintances one who lies under suspicion of having taken some part in getting up the Phoenix Park massacre.

Although Mr. Bradlaugh is not quite to my taste, I must confess that I heartily relished the manner in which he sat upon those Radical wire-pullers at Northampton who tried to make him their delegate. They sadly mistook their man. To do him justice, Mr. Bradlaugh has a stiff backbone, and although he knows how to make it pliable on occasion, it is not to be bent by brute force. In this respect, he compares favourably with not a few Gladstonite members who have become mere delegates in all but name.

Boulangism appears to be played out already in France. At all the recent elections matters have gone badly for the founder of that revolutionary creed, who must now regret that he staked his popularity on his prowess as a swordsmen. M. Flouquet's rapier pricked a bladder, it is clear, as well as slit a throat. I congratulate the French electors on their return to sanity. Gladstone in the Camborne and North-West Lanark Divisions please copy.

WILLIAM OF CLOUDESLEE.

Leicester's meeting was generally speaking dull as regards everything but the racing. That the people will not go to the place seems an unfortunate fact beyond the power of the company to alter. They were few and the weather miserable. Business started with the Donington Plate, in which Shirehampton, ridden by W. Nightingall, won easily. Next Pillarist, another second favourite, took the Gopsall Plate; and then came the Zetland Plate, for which there were two better favourites than Secusius. Mr. Manton's filly, who was well backed at Kempton for Rokeye's race, got home by a head only from the favourite, Charicée, with Taxus a head behind the second. Mr. W. R. Marshall took the Bradgate Park Plate with Haridan, who ran on to the finish, and beat four more fancied opponents. The Apple was well worth the 400 guineas paid for her after she landed the Birstall Selling Plate by a head from Goldsmith and Blackpool, who ran a dead heat for second place. The day's racing concluded with the All-Aged Plate, in which Misere, the non-favourite, beat Horscheath, her solitary opponent, by a short head.

On Tuesday the odds on Chilton Boy against Velours were only landed after a very hard race. Ice quite easily defeated eight opponents in the Appley Plate, for which Dog Rose was made a hot favourite, with Hazlewood next in demand.

A capital field started for the Midland Derby, which appeared so open that 5 to 1 was laid on the field to the finish of the betting. For a long way White Flag held so good a lead that the others seemed little likely to catch him. However, Arrandale gradually got up, and won a little, cleverly from White Flag at the finish. Bow Church was lucky enough to get well placed at the bend, or he might not have landed the Evington Plate. Athlete, spotted as a good thing, cleverly won the Sutton Plate; and Virgin Queen, a dreadful outsider, got home from Workington by a head only, on whom punters freely laid 15 to 8.

Robert Bruce, on Wednesday, had won the King's Mill Plate a long way from the finish. Surbiton took the Tapton Plate, after a fine race with Castlecock. King Monmouth on Tuesday became a strong favourite for the Leicester Handicap, and won by dint of staying. Had the course been two hundred yards shorter, Woodland, who with the winner ran right away from the rest, would have beaten Mr.

Lowther's horse. He was not going too gamely, Osborne, on Mr. Pickering's unnamed colt, and Beauford, cleverly won the Pelham Plate, and then Athlete, about whom the nice price of 9 to 2 could be had, made short work of his opponents in the Darley Plate. Zest, the worst favourite of three, stayed best in the Queen's Plate, and won from Osric, with Arundel, who was fancied by the stable, last.

Mike Conley, the Ithaca giant, who recently challenged Jem Smith to fight in the United States for £500 or £1,000, offers £200 expenses consideration to Smith if he will make the journey to America. On the other hand, Smith is willing to give £200 to the American to meet him within 500 miles of London.

Sullivan is once more challenging the world. Mitchell or Kilrain preferred. He does not want to fight, but must keep himself before the public.

L. E. Myers has returned to America from Australia, and is challenging all comers at a quarter or half a mile. He was given a benefit at Sydney before he left, which brought in a very handsome sum.

On Monday the professional mile swimming championship was decided at the Welsh Harp, Hendon, and very easily won by James Finney, of Oldham, now engaged at Margate. Next to Finney was Servante, late of Portsmouth, whose time was 32min. 42sec., to Finney's 30min. 11sec.

Bowlers continue to get the best of batsmen, though in some cases good scores have been made. One of the worst displays seen for a long while was in the game at Sheffield, between Yorkshire and Notts. The ex-champion county made only 24 and 38, while Yorkshire all went for 46. This left the latter to make 37 to win, a task they accomplished without losing a wicket.

Derbyshire at Old Trafford were dismissed for a still smaller total. They began fairly with 57, to which the Lancastrians answered with 182. Then Derby went in and out for 17 only in their second innings—Briggs had six wickets for 4 runs, and Watson four for 19.

Surrey beat Kent at Beckenham with 142 and 85 to 85 and 83. The best scorers were Abel, 31 and 10; J. Shuter, 25 and 8; Lohmann, 27 and 5; M. Read, 19 and 12; Henderson, 10 and 18. For Kent C. J. M. Fox put on 27 and 20, and no one else could get out of his teens.

A strong, but not quite so good an eleven as could be wished, was collected for Cambridge Past and Present against the Australians at Leyton. A. J. Steel could not play, and his absence was greatly felt. Cambridge, who went in first were all out for 137, of which A. P. Lucas made 50 quite in his old style, and A. M. Suthery had 24. The Colonials, who lost two wickets for 73 runs on the first evening, carried their total to 319 on Tuesday. This really was for nine wickets only, since Blackham was too unwell to bat. Bannerman went in first, and carried out his bat for 93. Bonnor made 73, Jarvis 33, and Edwards 36. At time the Cantabs could show 22 without losing a wicket. Unfortunately Wednesday's weather would not permit a resumption of play, and the game was abandoned as drawn. The Australians left for Huddersfield on Wednesday evening, to be ready for their third match against Yorkshire.

I regret to hear of the death of Mr. T. T. Drake, "Squire Drake," as we used to call him, of Shardlow, just by Amersham, Bucks. Mr. Drake was a mighty hunter, both as a follower of other packs, and master of the Bicester, &c. He kept a few horses in training for some years, was a member of the Jockey Club, and on the committee of Newmarket rooms, and a great authority on all agricultural matters. He was greatly respected in his own part of the country and wherever known.

The trial heats for Doggett's Coat and Badge were sculled on Wednesday between Hammer-smith and Putney Bridges. As only eight started and three in each heat were to go for the final, only a couple were knocked out in the preliminary process. The men who row on August 1st are:

(Station count from Middlesex.)
Station 1.—Alfred Thomas Martin, Greenwich (white).
Station 2.—Charles Richard Harding, Chelsea (yellow).
Station 3.—Wm. Alfred Hall, Wandsworth (pink).
Station 4.—Frederick Bryant, Shadwell (blue).
Station 5.—Richard Burn, Horsleydown (black).
Station 6.—Frederick Wm. Robinson, Putney (red).

Reading Amateur Regatta was quite ruined by the terrible wet boisterous weather. Thames rowed over for the Senior Eights and Fours, and beat London in the Sandeman Cup, also for eights. E. P. Billborough, of the London R.C., won the Junior Sculls; Reading took the Junior Fours, and C. W. Hughes, of the Thames, the Senior Sculls.

OLD IZAAK.

Although in our last week's issue, actuated by a desire to give my readers a useful hint, I wrote of my intention to spend my annual holiday in Ireland, I feel that the length of the journey which it is necessary to make would deter many from taking such a trip, and therefore having regard to the season of the year I will again devote a short space to the consideration of the question which, from correspondence I have received, I know to be uppermost in the minds of many anglers, of where to find a place nearer home at which good fishing can be had.

With regard to Ireland, however, I am convinced that, whatever may be the impressions prevailing in the minds of sportsmen as to the treatment with which they are likely to meet at the hands of the Irish peasantry, they will, if at all to their disengagement, be totally eradicated by a visit amongst them. There is, undoubtedly, good pike and perch fishing to be had free, to say nothing of salmon and trout, in the inland waters, far surpassing anything of the kind which is open to the angler in England.

My idea of a holiday as an angler will probably be accepted by my readers. It is after months of hard work, to undertake the labour of love of putting together rods and tackle, and throwing dull care to the winds, to go away to some quiet little haven of rest, where, within easy reach of temporary abode, the cost of living at which does not cripple one's resources for twelve months afterwards, good fishing is to be had, and perhaps a specimen fish caught, furnishing a remembrance which will linger long and lighten the cares of many a weary hour.

On the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads these requirements may easily be met with. Only lately, although anglers fishing in the Thame have had very poor sport, and have blamed the state of the weather, a friend of mine having returned from a fishing excursion to the Wensum, has been enjoying some splendid roach fishing, while along the banks of the Thame, especially above Reading, there is many a country village to be found where good quarters may be had, with fishing within easy distance, which will satisfy any lover of the gentle art.

But there is the desirability of a visit to the seashore to be taken into consideration, and in favour of this, the voice of Mrs. Angler, and all the little Anglers, will probably be raised in chorus. I have found that sea-fishing is an agreeable and even more exciting than fresh water fishing, and also that the same rules apply almost equally to both, as regards the use of fine tackle. The lines and tackle used by the regular sea fishermen are, as a rule, much coarser than is necessary. A favourite plan of mine is to select a place to visit where a river runs in the sea, and then to fish for the bass which follow the spout up on an incoming tide. This I do with a short and stiff rod and a plaited silk pike line, using for bait a strip of mackerel or pilchard on hooks mounted on twisted gut. Sea fishermen using a

rod will succeed when the ordinary hand lines altogether fail.

While staying at Bournemouth last year, on looking into the water from the iron platform beneath the pier I noticed the shoals of smelts, and never found any difficulty, when the sea was calm, in taking, in a short time, a dish full of these toothsome fish, baiting with the ordinary bread paste on roach tackle.

In reply to "Tyro" I should advise him to read "A Book on Angling," by Francis Francis. There is good pike, bream, and perch fishing to be had in Dagenham Lake, but my space will not allow of my naming all the baits with which these fish can be caught. However, to give a general idea to a perfect novice, such as "Tyro" describes himself to be, I would recommend for pike using a medium-sized dace on snap tackle; for bream, medium or worms on roach tackle; and for the large perch which I understand there are in the lake, nothing will probably be found to possess greater powers of attraction than a minnow, or a small gudgeon on a paternoster.

While the Adelphi piece was unfolding itself to the public for the first time, Miss Marie de Grey was giving a musical evening in the banqueting-room at St. James's Hall. I arrived just in time to hear Miss Lucille Saunders and Mr. Howard Paul sing and Miss de Grey recite, and then I had to speed back to the Adelphi. Mr. Paul sang a very old-fashioned comic song, parts only of which were audible where I sat.

I hear that, so far as the St. James's company were concerned, there were no special high jinks behind the scenes on the last night of the season. The managers received visitors from the front, but the rank and file of the corps dramatique were dismissed, so gossip says, without so much as the cracking of a bottle of champagne. All the better.

I find that, during their career at the St. James's, Messrs. Hare and Kendal produced twenty-one pieces, of which five were revivals—"Still Waters Run Deep," "Home," "As You Like It," "Lady Clancarty," and "The Wife's Secret." Of the remaining sixteen only six, I believe, were of purely English origin. "Monsieur le Duc" (*Val Prinsep*) may have been wholly original, but I suspect it had a French prototype, and, if so, the following were Messrs. Hare and Kendal's drafts on English invention—"The Falcon" (*Tennyson*), "Old Cromies" (*Theyre Smith*), "William and Susan" (*Wills*), "The Money Spinner," "The Squire," and "The Hobby Horse" (all by Pinero).

"Young Folks' Way" was American (Mrs. Burnett and Mr. W. Gillette). From the French came "Good Fortune" (*Coghlan*), "Coralie" (*Godfrey*), "The Cape Mail" (*Scott*), "Impulse" (*Stephenson*), "The Ironmaster" (*Pinero*), "Mayfair" (*Pinero*), "Antoine Rigaud" (*Warren*), and "The Wife's Sacrifice" (*Grundy* and *Edwards*)—eight in all, and nine with "Monsieur le Duc," against the six which were unmistakably English.

On Monday evening I went down to Greenwich, and heard and saw "Geraldine," the comic opera by Messrs. Edgar Wyatt and Alf. R. Watson. I found the company above the average. It contained three ex-members of Mr. D'Oyly Carte's country companies—Miss Ethna Pierson, Miss Madge Stavart, and Mr. Allen Morris; also those two clever comedians, Mr. J. T. Macmillan and Mr. Fawcett Loxam. Miss Kate Neverist, who is also of the troupe, has a very good contralto, but is apparently forcing her lower register at the expense of the middle and upper. Mr. Watson's music is always melodious.

That was indeed a monster programme which Messrs. Stephens and Solomon put before their patrons at the Prince's Hall on Wednesday night. I looked in at 10 p.m., and left at 12.30, and during the interval I heard Miss Amalia, Miss Minnie Bell, Miss Elsie Cameron, Miss Marie de Grey, Miss Kate Everleigh, Miss Jessie Lee, Miss C. Recoschewitz (*Phobus*, what a name!), Miss Romola Tynte, Mr. L. Brough, Mr. H. Brady, Mr. E. Bagge, Mr. C. Collette, Mr. F. de Laro, Mr. E. J. Lonnion, Mr. R. Martin, Mr. W. Pallant, Mr. L. Stormont, Mr. T. Squire, Mr. G. Thorne, and Mr. Van Biene, besides seeing Miss Phillips Broughton dance, and Mr. Bertram and Miss Patrice conjure. I believe the entertainment closed shortly after I left.

Miss Elsie Cameron and Mr. George Thorne belong to Mr. D'Oyly Carte's provincial combinations, and the lady has a very agreeable voice and style. Mr. Thorne has plenty of the latter, but little of the former. He is one of the Thorne family. Where Miss Recoschewitz comes from I don't know; I should imagine from Germany. Her vocal organ is too ear-piercing for my taste.

When Miss Sophie Eyre produces Mr. John Coleman's version of "Mr. Barnes of New York" ("Marita") at the Gaiety, she will do so with an attractive cast. Among the gentlemen will be Messrs. F. Terry, E. D. Ward, and H. Waring; and among the ladies, Miss Charlotte Leclerc, Miss Lucy Buckstone, and Miss Enid Leslie. Mr. Julian Cross plays the part corresponding to that which he had at the Olympic. I believe there was at one time a possibility that Mrs. Bernard Beere would produce Mr. Coleman's adaptation.

seeing at the Grand, Islington, with, I think, Miss Roselle and Mr. Dacre, and who appeared still more recently at a Strand matinee. By and bye she goes to the St. James's, and I think she will make her mark.

It is rather curious that Messrs. Pettitt and Grundy should have given to the heroine of "The Union Jack" the name of Ethel Arden. That is the name also of an actress, well known in the country and in London minor theatres, who may some day be called upon somewhere to play the part in question. If so, "Ethel Arden," by Miss Ethel Arden, will look queer on the bills.

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CLIPPINGS FROM THE COMICS.

(From *Moonshines*.)

The scientific authorities have been writing a great deal to the papers about the weather cycle. We can testify from our own experience that there is no cycle like it for a spell.

Mr. Gladstone dined with Sir Wilfrid Lawson the other night. We are sorry to say, too, that he went in for a little more Irish than usual.

THE WATERS.—Was there ever such a summer? Everybody will be knocked up!—Everybody will be knocked up! Nonsense; everybody will be wrung out."

REAL SYMPATHY.

(Scene—A Conversational Meeting in Trafalgar-square. Mr. Cunningham Bedlam, standing on tip-toe, addressing his friends.)

C. B. Men of London, shall we be Driven slave-like from the square? No, we won't, but all shall see How we'll—

POLICE. Now then, move on there.

C. B. How we'll—

POLICE. Move on there; d'ye hear?

C. B. How we'll face the brutal crew Firm as rocks;

POLICE. Come, off you sheer, Or we'll make it warm for you.

C. B. Warren's bludgeon-arm'd throng To fight with us dare not begin.

Cravens!

POLICE. Now you come along;

We're going to run you in.

C. B. Help, help, help! You're murd'ring me. Torn's my collar, smashed my hat;

Men and brothers, will you see Me, your leader, served like that?

Tom (one of C. B.'s ardent supporters in the crowd). Twig him, Bill!

BILL (another). Aye, what a spree! Better than a pantomime.

See him kick?

BOTH. Ho, ho! he, he!

TOM. He don't like it; ain't it fine?

Here's a rush; kick up a row.

BOTH. Shame!

POLICE. Make way!

BILL. His ticker snick.

BOTH. Shame! A rescue!

BILL. Now, Tom, now.

TOM. All right, Bill, I've done the trick.

Exit Tom and Bill, while C. B. is led away to the prison to find all the good he has done is to lose his watch.—[And serve him right, too.]—ED.

(From *Funch*.)

NEAR THE MARK.—General Von Moltke (to H.E.H. "the Duke") Ach! Vimpton! Eichmont! Donnerwetter! Py Chorch! if that so willing solider als dat, soon him voot I vis a schooding-round provite.

A LAST CHANCE.—London Artisan (to expiring Metropolitan Board of Works): Do one good work before you depart this life, and, at a stroke of the pen, secure the benefits offered at Hampstead to the London toilers, their wives and children.

OUR VILLAGE INDUSTRIAL COMPETITION.—Husband (just home from the City): My angel!—Crying! Whatever's the matter?—Wife: They've awarded me a prize medal—(sobbing)—I'm quite sure it deserves it.—Wife (hysterically): Oh—but it's said—twas—for the best specimen—concrete!

At a recent meeting the Archbishop of Canterbury observed that he hoped the Church House would soon be launched. So it is to be a house-boat after all. In smooth water, let us hope, and in communication with the nearest bank.

Very small beer—Coneybear.

The Government workshop—"The Smithy."

The "Sweets" of Wimbledon—"Bulls'-eyes."

(From *Fun*.)

PROFESSIONAL PRIDE.—Doctor's Boy: My governor's cleverer than youn'. 'Arrf his medicine is poison if they ain't properly mixed.—Butcher's Boy: Garn! We makes sossiges!

Hi Gor Cawr. Too.—Host: Now this port, my boy, is genuine 47.—Guest: 47, eh? Let's see, 47s. the dozen—3s. lsd. the bottle. Well, we pay 3s. 6d.; but I must own this drinks a little better!

An ASPIRING PEOPLE.—We are nothing if not gentle nowadays. "The lady who calls for the washing" has stepped into the shoes of the laundress of our youthful days, and we have heard a beggar described as "a gentleman who had called for a piece of bread." As this sort of humbug grows—and it does grow, and flourish, like most kinds of humbug—we shall have shopmen and shopgirls no longer "apprenticed," but "serving their articles" with Messrs. So-and-so and So-and-so.

Driver (to quiet stranger on suburban road): Hill mister, jest hold that there horse's head for a minute while I get down, will ye?—Stranger (nervously): Wh-which one?—Driver: Why, the off 'un, to be sure.—Stranger: My good man, I am totally unacquainted with horses, and it is quite impossible for me to tell which of your animals is an orphan.

Hungry husband (just home from business): How is it, my dear, you have flavoured the stew so much? It quite burns my throat.—Young Wife (who isn't eating any): Why, dear, the meat wasn't quite sweet, so I thought it better to make it tasty.—[Husband proposes an adjournment.]

(From *Judy*.)

THE DIFFERENCE.—Speaking to an American friend the other day about our Trafalgar-square business, he observed, "Yes; we manage that sort of thing much better in New York. A short time ago a political meeting was about to take place in Tomkins-square, and when the police heard of it, they first of all telegraphed to the different hospitals for ambulances, and then they started on the crowd with their clubs. The ambulances were pretty busy, but there wasn't much speaking."

EVERY PROFESSION HAS ITS GRADES.—Negro Minstrel (in conversation with Benevolent Party): Yes, sir; I ought to 'a done better than git down to this year. You'll ardly credit wot I say, sir, to look at me, but I've got a cousin in the Mo'awks, an' a brother in the Moore and Burgessees Minstrels!

The Liquor Question.—"What will you have?"

There has been a "chief amang us takin' notes." The said chief is Mr. Higgins, who hails from Columbia; and if what he says is true of us, we ought to kinder feel small. Now, an Englishman is proverbially proud of his aristocracy, even 'Arry is 'appy if noticed by a duke or a bear. But our American censor says in the Forum that our upper classes are gauche, not high bred, scarcely well bred. Think of this, ya scions who claim to be the glass of fashion and the mould of form! Then our middle classes are no better, and we all more or less indulge in coarse language—even the fair sex being by no means faultless. When we are moreover told that we are thick-skinned, lack sensitiveness, and are deficient in good manners, we can only sigh and hope that if manners make the man, they may one day also make the Englishtman.

(From *Funny Folks*.)

THE DISMISSED STATE.—Mrs. Mangowler: George! Do you see this? In America it has been decided that Sunday marriages are not legal; no contract made on that day is binding. Will that law come over here?—Mr. Mangowler: Don't I wish it would! Why, we were married on Sunday!—[Didn't he catch it!]

WHISTLE, AND I'LL COME TO YOU, MY LAD.—Mrs. Shaw, the American lady whistler, is a great success in London.—Pater: Maria, I will not have the boys making this hideous noise all over the house. I wish the holidays were over.—Mater: Be quiet, papa, do; it's not the boys at all. It's Kate and Ned and Alice and Liss taking their whistling lessons. Do you want the girls to grow up without a profession?

(From *Ally Sloper*.)

"Now, boy, you are accused by this gentleman

of stealing a basket containing a salmon, which he entrusted to you to carry home for him! What have you got to say for yourself?" asked the magistrate. "I didn't go for to steal nothing, sir," replied the youthful prisoner. "The gentleman he came up to me, sir, and he says, says he, 'Boy, carry this home, and I did so, sir, and we had the fish for supper last night, and werry nice it were.'

"How is it," said Jones, "that when two women quarrel they so seldom make it up?" "Why owing to their mutual desire of obtaining the last word, of course," asserted Smith. "A woman is never satisfied unless she gets it; so, when two of them have a row, there is but little hope of reconciliation, except through an accident, such as a violent toothache or an attack of lockjaw."

"Hallo, Mr. Hardup! what do this mean?" "Inquired a stern landlady, meeting defaulting lodger on the stairs with carpet bag. "Don't you think you're a goin' to swindle a poor widder woman like that, you know! I've been done too often; and, let me tell you, you don't leave this 'ere house till you pay your rent." "Hurrah!" shouted Hardup. "Mrs. Castiron, you're an angel! That will suit me down to the ground. I'll stay with you for ever!"

"Now, Mr. softy," said an examiner to a masher, "be good enough to tell me what you consider the most important scientific discovery of the present age?" "Scientific discovery?" echoed the masher, hopelessly involved. "Yes, such as the telephone," replied the examiner, promptly, "electric motors, the phonograph, &c." "Oh, yass!" exclaimed the masher, a light breaking in on him; "I know. Well, yer know, I should say er—two-woos-awtchers!"

SOCIETY GOSSIP.

(From *St. Stephen's Review*.)

Nobody seems to know the real facts regarding the large fortune left her Majesty by the late Mr. Neild. They are as follows: Mr. John Camden Neild was an eccentric old gentleman, who died on the 30th August, 1852, leaving property worth £500,000 to the Queen, who before his death had never heard of him. Neild's father was the son of Mr. James Neild, who made a fortune as a gold and silvermith, to which his son succeeded in 1814. The amount thus left was £250,000, so that between 1814 and 1852 Neild succeeded in doubling the capital sum. It appears that he dressed so shabbily as to sometimes be the recipient of alms from benevolent strangers, and it is on record that the old miser never refused any such offers. With the exception of a few small legacies, he left everything he possessed to the Queen, though he made a provision to the extent of £100 for each of his executors. To a faithful old housekeeper who had been with him twenty-six years, however, he left nothing. Her Majesty, however, made a handsome provision for this old housekeeper as long as the latter lived. She also gave each of the executors £1,000, and caused a suitable memorial to be raised to the old man, who must certainly have been a monomaniac. Some time ago I referred to the people of title who were taking to or had established themselves in business. The strangest venture I have as yet heard of is also the latest. This is on the part of a lady, well known in society's ranks, who has opened a furniture shop in Belgravia, and who evidently means, judging from preliminary appearances, big business.

It is the peculiar boast of the National League that they can make Ireland a hell upon earth for those who do not agree with them, and where they come across men of a fibre not so stern as Mr. Balfour they succeed in their inhuman enterprise. Thus they raise a pean of triumph over the suicide of the poor Tullamore doctor whom they have baited to death. The death of Mr. Forster, the premature aging of Sir George Trevelyan, were both due to a similar cause. Fortunately Mr. Balfour is as hard as nails, and cares not a straw for all the reviling.

The indecent and ridiculous clamour of the rebel paper on the subject of Mr. Mandeville's death will awaken no response in England. We all know that if we offend against the laws and incur punishment we have got to submit to it, and if we refuse we are liable to further punishment, for which we alone are to blame. The contention of those who blame the prison authorities in Mr. Mandeville's case would, if admitted, enable every felon to obtain release from jail, for it would only be necessary to refuse to eat prison food, or food in prison, and then the authorities would be bound to release the convict. If Mr. Mandeville really did suffer seriously from his obstinate and stupid offences when in prison Mr. O'Brien is, no doubt, the person to blame. But for Mr. O'Brien's idiocy on the subject of prison clothes Mr. Mandeville would probably never have thought of raising such a chicken-hearted objection. As for refusing to clean out his cell—well, that is a thing which we can only imagine an Irishman or a Frenchman refusing to do.

(From *Life*.)

A good deal has been said and written about Jem Selby's recentfeat of driving the "Old Times" coach from Hatchett's to the Old Ship at Brighton and back in ten minutes under eight hours. It may be interesting, therefore, to note, that in 1850, Tim Carter, who is still alive, carried William IV.'s audience speech and eight passengers to Brighton in 3hrs. and 35min., and that in 1837, Israel Alexander, took 3hrs. and 40min. to carry her Majesty's first speech over the same distance of ground.

How unfortunate it was that Mr. Henry Campbell, Mr. Parnell's private secretary, should have been dangerously ill during the hearing of the O'Donnell libel case. And how unfortunate it was that Mr. Parnell himself was unable to go into the box during that trial, and that the Government won't allow hon. members to dictate the terms on which the inquiry is to proceed. Really, an evil fate seems to pursue these gentlemen. They are dying to clear their reputations, they are burning to go into the witness-box, and they are repelling the lying accusations of the brutal Saxon, and somehow they are always prevented.

There is schism in the ranks of the Irish party, and it is by no means improbable that Mr. Parnell will resign the leadership. There are many amongst his own followers who are jealous of his ascendancy, and who in private are by no means so loyal to him as they are supposed to be by outsiders. It was at the instigation of one of these—well, let us call them dissentients—that Mr. Parnell was subpoenaed by Mr. O'Donnell after he had expressed his disapproval of the libel action in the strongest possible terms. The "Uncrowned King" is weary of the fight, and is tired of being betrayed again and again by those who are supposed to be his followers. His position has become untenable, and his retirement, therefore, at any moment would create no surprise.

It is not, however, only amongst the Irish party that schism exists. Very wide grieves have recently developed themselves between certain sections of their English allies, and the effect will probably be a considerable change in the personnel of the party before another session commences. Meantime the wear and tear of the present session has played havoc with the health of several Conservative legislators. Lord Randolph Churchill and Sir Henry Ibbetson have both suffered severely from it; Mr. Atkinson and Mr. Henniker Heaton are away on sick leave; and Mr. Gerald Balfour has been absent from England for months in search of health.

(From *The World*.)

One Italian journal announced that the Villa Palmieri at Florence has been bought by the Empress Frederick for £200,000, while another states that the Queen is the purchaser, at the price of £224,000. I do not believe either that the Villa Palmieri has been sold, or that it is for sale.

It is the constant and favourite residence of Lady Crawford, and her friends would certainly be astonished to hear of her parting with it.

The Empress Frederick intends to pass the next winter and spring in Italy, and to spend several months of each year on the southern side of the Alps, but it is not likely that she will make any sort of permanent settlement out of Germany.

A DAY'S WORK AT EVICTING IN IRELAND.

The proceedings in connection with the evictions on the Vandeleur estate, county Clare, have been in progress during the week. Following is a description of one day's proceedings:

The chateau of Peterhof is the most beautiful of all the Russian Imperial residences. It was originally built by Peter the Great, but has been considerably enlarged and altered by several of his successors, notably the Empress Catherine and by Nicholas. It was originally intended (like so many country seats in Russia and Germany) as an imitation of Versailles; but the house is in no way remarkable, and the interior, although magnificently furnished in the rococo style, contains little of interest except the famous tapestry and some splendid Sèvres china. The Emperor William occupied the rooms of the Queen of Württemberg, the furniture having been newly covered with crimson satin. The white walls of the chateau have a glaring effect on a bright day, which is heightened by the immense and gorgeous gold and silver cupola and crown of the adjoining church, and by the numerous golden statues and vases. The extensive gardens descend by terraces to the sea, where there is a landing-stage for the Imperial family, and they are famous throughout Russia for their cascades and fountains, especially a cascade which falls down a number of golden steps. They are most elaborately laid out with temple, grottoes, and rockeries. The park is charming and thickly wooded, and contains several lakes and numerous avenues of lime and oak, which were planted by Catherine. In one corner of it is the quaint wooden house in which Peter lived during his periodical visits to Cronstadt. Peterhof, in the height of summer, is altogether one of the most delightful spots in Europe, and the Emperor William cannot fail to compare Potsdam disadvantageously with it.

Considering that according to the Parnellites, the Times letters are all forgeries, and the Times charges are all falsehoods, it is most extraordinary how fastidious they are about the constitution of the tribunal, to try them, and the scope of an inquiry by which honour would be heaped upon themselves and shame upon their accusers. The attitude of the Parnellites may be thus stated:

"We are conscious of our integrity and innocence, and we court the fullest investigation of our conduct; but we insist on being permitted to select our judges, and to frame the indictment on which we are to be arraigned." Guilty men have never been accorded such privileges; innocent men have never demanded them. It must not be ignored that all who have had opportunities to investigate the subject—Mr. Gladstone, Sir William Harcourt, Mr. Forster, Sir George Trevelyan in 1881 and 1882, and now Sir Richard Webster—have reached the same conclusion, namely, that the agitators have been allied with crime. It is on every ground desirable that this charge should be once for all either substantiated or withdrawn.

(From *Truth*.)

The papers are still speculating as to the plans of the Empress Victoria, and all sorts of ridiculous arrangements have been announced for her. The Empress will remain at Potsdam till the beginning of September, when (as was mentioned in *Truth* a month ago) she is to come to Scotland for a stay of, at least, six weeks, and the Queen has been conveyed to this country in the German Imperial yacht Hohenzollern, of which her son, Prince Henry, is the commander. On leaving England the Empress is going to Italy, where she will remain for about six months, and Florence, Rome, and Naples will probably be her places of residence.

Probably the Czar was glad that he was not obliged to receive the Emperor William at a country seat, when special preparations would have been necessary for his reception, as the expenses of such visits are prodigious. It cost the Emperor of Austria £120,000 to entertain the Czar for three days at Kremsier in 1885, and the bills for putting the Archbishop of Olmütz's palace into repair, and for decorating and furnishing it for the occasion, amounted to nearly £40,000.

The old story, which was long ago contradicted in *Truth*, about a projected marriage between Prince Albert Victor and Princess Alexandra of Anhalt-Dessau, has been revived, but there is no more foundation for it now than there was two years ago. Princess Alexandra, described as a lovely maiden of sixteen, and as being "one of the wealthiest of continental Royalties," is in her nineteenth year, and she is not an heiress, as she has three brothers, and an elder sister who is married to a grandson of the Duchess of Cambridge, the Hereditary Grand-Duke of Mecklenburg-Strelitz.

King Milan of Servia is a most despicable creature. Some years ago he went to Vienna for a brief stay, and on the first night of his visit he lost £24,000 at the Nobles' Club. The money had to be paid within twenty-four hours, and as he had not the amount he went to the palace and requested a loan from the Emperor, who gave him the money, on condition that he would not play again; and yet, the very next night, he was found at the table, and did not rise until £8,000 more had gone. No application could be made this time to the Emperor, so Milan raised the amount on the security of a splendidly-jewelled scimitar, which had been presented to the late Prince Milosch by the Emperor Nicholas. This scimitar has never been redeemed, and it is now in the possession of Herr Bleichroeder, the Berlin banker.

REMARKABLE DISTRAINT CASE.

Mr

LAST WEEK'S
LAW AND POLICE.

Bow-street.

THE TRAFALGAR-SQUARE FARM.—Mr. Poland attended before Mr. Bridge and mentioned the eight charges preferred against individuals for assaults, &c., on the police in Trafalgar-square on the 7th July. He had only received intimation of an application the previous day, quarter of an hour before he came to the court.—Mr. Dillon Lewis said he simply asked that Mr. Vaughan should state a case on points of law in connection with Antonio Borgia's case, and the suggestion was made that the present cases should stand over until Mr. Vaughan had given his decision. If the present cases were to go on he had a number of charges to make against the police. He was surprised that Mr. Poland, in the face of what had occurred in the House of Commons, and the statement made by Mr. C. Graham at which the Home Secretary expressed satisfaction, should have attended.—Mr. Bridge remarked that it had been said that, supposing these cases were adjourned, there would be no further meetings in Trafalgar-square.—Mr. Lewis: I said if a case is to be stated which would fairly raise for the decision of the Queen's Bench Division the question at issue between the public and the authorities, at that moment, these meetings which are held as a protest—should cease.—Mr. Bridge said if any case could be stated it would be done. These meetings must be detrimental, and should be stopped in the meantime.—After some further remarks, it was arranged that all cases should be held over until a day was fixed that would be most convenient to both parties.

Marlborough-street.

HOUSEHOLDERS LOOT OUT.—Henry Walter Serven, Argyle-place, and Henry Cooper, White Lion-street, Islington, little boys of ten, were charged with breaking from house to house in Tottenham Court-road. When taken into custody they were found to be in a filthy state, so much so that they had to be taken to a workhouse to be cleansed.—Serven's mother, a widow, said that her child ran away on Monday, and she had not seen him since.—The other boy, according to a statement made by his father, had been away for two or three weeks. He was continually running away for many days at a time and causing him much trouble.—Mr. Marlow, the assistant gaoler, acting the boy where he had been sleeping, he said in a cellar, amongst the baskets, at a green-grocer's in the Caledonian-road.—They were remanded for a week.

ALLEGED ROBBERY AT A CLUB.—Harry Etherington, a commissionaire, was charged with stealing £2 and a number of cigars, the property of Mr. G. Stewart Spratt, secretary to the Badminton Club, Piccadilly.—The prisoner had been employed for a month as night porter. A sum of £2 was given to him to be used as change, should the members require any, and cigars to the value of £1 5s. 6d. for sale. On the 14th inst. the prisoner became intoxicated, and consequently was unfit for duty. He was relieved at his post, when he pocketed the remaining cigars and walked away. No account of the money was afterwards given, and when arrested he said it was not a theft but a breach of trust. Some of the money he had expended in stamps, other portions were owing to him for cigars, which some of the gentlemen had on credit, and as for the remainder, as there were not more than half a dozen, it was not likely he was going to leave them to the "tender mercies" of his successor. He had no intention to steal either the money or the cigars. When he found that he was deficient, he thought the amount would be made up by the commissioners at the barracks, and that was the reason he did not return.—Mr. Spratt said that he did not wish to press the charge.—Mr. Newton told the accused he had gone as near as he could to the commission of a felony, and he should advise him to take care how he conducted himself in the future.—He was discharged.

Marylebone.

A' NUISANCE.—A resident in the parish of St. Pancras applied to Mr. Cooke for his advice as regards a nuisance which he said was almost unbearable to himself and his neighbours. Near to his house was a large heap of ballast, house refuse, and street sweepings, which were being burnt, and the stench from the fumes which it belched forth was simply awful.—Mr. Cooke suggested that applicant should go to see the vestry solicitor.—The applicant, however, said he and fifty or sixty of his neighbours had petitioned the vestry some time ago, but to no effect. It was not likely anything would be done by the parish officials, for how could the medical officer of health take proceedings against a vestryman, who was, in fact, his master?—Mr. Cooke remarked that it was a pity the vestry could not see its way to take proceedings in order to protect a parishioner.—The applicant said it was a fact that it had not. Twelve months ago he was able to stop a similar nuisance through the influence of the ground landlord, but now the ground was let to a vestryman of the parish, and all applicant's efforts had failed.—Mr. Cooke told the applicant to go to the vestry and say that if they did not take steps in the matter he (the magistrate) should grant process to the parishioners.

Clerkenwell.

ROBBING CHRIST'S HOSPITAL.—James Cronin, Charles Evans, and William Keiley, described as errand boys of 15 years of age, were charged with having been concerned together in stealing a quantity of linen from the property of the trustees of Christ's Hospital.—The lead in question formed part of the roofs of some houses in Palmer's place, Holloway, the houses being the property of the trustees for the time being of Christ's Hospital. The agent for the property said that the houses had been empty for a long time, being about to be demolished. Tons of lead had been stripped from the roofs, and many of the fittings of the houses carried off by bands of boys who broke in at the windows and backs of the houses. In this instance the prisoners were seen on the roofs of some of the houses by police-constables, and when the agent was called up he arrived at the houses in time to meet the prisoners descending the stairs carrying lead rolled up. The value of that taken from them was put at £20.—The prisoners admitted the facts, but said that other boys had taken some.—Mr. Barstow sentenced each to ten days' hard labour.

Thames.

THE REVOLVER NUISANCE.—John Cairns, aged 26, was charged with discharging a revolver in the public streets.—Charles Russell, manager at the Jolly Sailors, Cable-street, said that at a quarter past twelve o'clock that morning he was talking to a neighbour outside his house, when he heard a report of firearms. On going to the spot, he saw the prisoner with a revolver, and took it away from him.—In answer to Mr. Saunders, the witness said the prisoner was very excited, and the pistol was loaded in four chambers.—John White, inspector of the H Division, said at twenty minutes past twelve he was passing along Cable-street, when he heard a report of firearms, and from what he heard he entered the Jolly Sailors, and asked prisoner for the revolver, which he declined to give up. His arms were held and it was taken from him. He found that the bullet had passed through the counter and entered a barrel in the bar.—John Jennings said he was in the bar of the Jolly Sailors, when the prisoner showed the revolver to him, and he believed it went off accidentally.—The prisoner now said he was showing the pistol to the last witness, and it went off accidentally.—Mr. Lushington bound the prisoner over in the sum of £10 to keep the peace for six months.

HE DIDN'T PAY.—Frederick Stacey, a well-dressed young man, was charged on remand with attempting to fraudulently obtain £5 from David Moir, of Westbourne Grove-terrace, Bayswater. About a fortnight ago the prosecutor wrote to John Clinkell, an agent for the Aberdeen Steam Wharf, Emmett-street, Limehouse, engaging four second-class berths, the fares amounting to £5, and he received a letter with an envelope.

latter bearing the agent's name and address. He had the precaution to look in the directory to see who lived at 21, Burdett-road, from whence the letter was addressed, and finding it was kept by a newsagent he did not part with his money. The agent was called to prove that he had nothing whatever to do with the company, and he knew nothing of the address in Burdett-road.—On Friday afternoon, the 14th, Hubert Duck, a plain-clothes sergeant, saw the prisoner enter and leave 21, Burdett-road, break open an envelope, look at the contents, and tear the envelope up. Duck took him into custody, and, in reply to the charge, he said a man gave him half-a-crown to go and fetch the letter, while he was in the Red Lion, Tottenham Court-road, but he did not know him or where he lived.—Mr. Saunders committed the prisoner over.

Worship-street.

NOT A NIC CASE.—Annie Lazarus, 25, described as married, well dressed, was charged with picking pockets in High-street, Shoreditch, on Friday evening, and with the unlawful possession of two purses and a watch and chain.—Police-constables 411 G and 37 G gave evidence, showing that from about seven o'clock till half-past they watched the prisoner, whose movements had aroused suspicion. She went into various crowds or knots of people at shops, and tried the dress pockets of no less than seven ladies. The officers were in plain clothes, and 411 G said that at last he distinctly saw the prisoner's hand in a lady's pocket, and he took her into custody, but the lady said she had not lost anything, and would not charge her. At the police-station the prisoner was found in possession of two purses and about 12s. in silver, besides a gold chain and watch. After being put into a cell she became ill, and had to be removed to the workhouse infirmary. In court she complained of illness, and was evidently unfit to be out. She denied the charge, and her husband from the back of the court addressed the magistrate, saying that the money found on the prisoner he had given her to buy some things, and that the watch and chain was his and she was going to pawn it. The police evidence was very clear, but the officers admitted that their attention had been called to the prisoner by a man who sometimes gave them information.—Mr. Bushby wished to hear that witness, and a youth, who said he did not wish to give his name and address, entered the box. Asked why he did not wish to give his name and address, he said he had been threatened for giving evidence for the police on a previous occasion. His evidence as to the prisoner was as clear as that of the constables, and he said he had watched her before they did. Mr. Bushby eventually remanded the prisoner for inquiries, and said that if any person would come forward to claim the purses or other property (which remains in possession of the police at Hoxton station), it would materially strengthen the case.

Hammersmith.

AN APPLICATION.—An application was made on behalf of a wife and her child for a maintenance summons.—Mr. Curtis Bennett said he would hear the wife, but he had nothing to do with the child.—The wife said she was married in 1884, and her husband had left her two years afterwards. They separated by mutual consent.—The solicitor, who accompanied the wife, said the husband had nothing to keep her with.—Mr. Curtis Bennett said the husband ran away, and his wife went to her friends. He inquired whether the husband had refused to support his wife?—The applicant said she had not asked him.—The Magistrate: You must.—The solicitor said he had often applied to the husband for maintenance for his wife.—Mr. Curtis Bennett said a husband was not bound to support his wife unless he refused to live with her. He advised her to send a registered letter to her husband offering to resume cohabitation, and to keep a copy of it.—The applicant left the Court on the understanding that she would adopt that course.

Westminster.

SHE WOULD HAVE HIS "STRIPES."—A well-dressed female, whose hair was peculiarly plaited over the upper part of her forehead, and who, refusing her name and address, was brought before Mr. Partridge described as "a woman from No. 3 cell," was charged with being drunk and riotous, and assaulting the police. The prisoner laughed when she was placed in front of the dock, and pointing to the constable in the witness-box, who was not wearing his armlet, said: I beg your pardon. He has not got "them" on. He is short of his stripes (laughed).—Mr. Safford (chief clerk): Never mind that. What is your name?—Prisoner: I don't know. I refuse to tell.—The Clerk: Which is it? You don't know or you won't say?—Prisoner: I have answered you once. That is quite sufficient. You ought to take a lady's answer. But I really beg your pardon. That policeman has not got his stripes on. (Laughter.)—The Clerk: Very well; you refuse to give your address.—Prisoner (surveying herself, and holding up her skirts): Well, my dress, I must confess, is rather dirty just now. (Loud laughter.) It's not a nice place for a good dress, is it?—The Clerk: No; I did not ask about your dress. I remarked that you would not say where you lived.—Prisoner: At this present moment my address is in the Westminster Police Court. (Renewed laughter.)—Mr. Safford (to the magistrate): The police know nothing about her or her friends. She won't give any information. (To the prisoner): You were locked up, I see, last night. (Coaxingly): Now where did you sleep the night before last?—Prisoner: Why in a very comfortable bed to be sure. I had a much better night than last night—which was in the cell. (Great laughter). I can't tell you anything this morning. I feel so awful queer. My nerves are so upset.—Mr. Partridge: You say you are living here. You don't want to go back to the cells?—Prisoner: I would prefer staying here. You all look so nice and comfortable. (Laughter.)—The constable Vincent, 371 B, was about to give evidence when the prisoner burst out laughing, and exclaimed: I won't stand up unless he puts his stripes on. He is not on duty now. (Laughter.)—Before the officials could prevent her, she slid down in front of the dock to the floor of the court, and was only induced to resume a standing position by the constable putting on his armlet, which he did at the request of the clerk, with much deliberation, and to the no small amusement of every one in court. He then gave evidence that on Friday forenoon he was called to the Star and Garter public-house in the Queen's-road, Chelsea, to eject the prisoner, where she had behaved in a very singular way. She threw herself on the ground, and had to be carried away on an ambulance. Another constable assisted witness, and she bit a piece of the cloth out of his tunic and swallowed it.—Mr. Partridge: She must be a person of unsound mind.—Witness: I did not think so yesterday, sir.—The prisoner during this colloquy, with a very good-humoured but rather vacant expression on her face, showed signs of subsiding, in the manner she had done earlier in the proceedings, and being held upon one side by the assistant-gaoler and on the other by a warrant officer, volunteered the information that she rather liked it, an announcement that occasioned more laughter.—Burchell, the gaoler, said she had talked in a very peculiar way since she had been in his custody, and, although she would answer when she liked, he thought she must be of unsound mind.—Mr. Partridge: Send her to the workhouse as a lunatic.—She smilingly bowed to his worship and the clerk, and was then removed.

Greenwich.

ASSAULT ON A SCHOOLMISTRESS.—Mrs Bassett, of 8, Idenden-terrace, Greenwich Marshes, was summoned for assaulting Mary Jane Ballantine, head mistress of the St. Andrew's School, Greenwich. The evidence showed that the complainant had refused the defendant's child Lucy admission

to the school pending an apology from her sister for having taken Lucy out of the school without her permission. The defendant therupon went to the school, used very bad language, and ultimately caught hold of the mistress by the arms and shook her.—The defendant complained that the teachers in the school chastised the children severely. She went to remonstrate with the head mistress, and when she saw that her child Lucy was being pushed she said, "If you push and shake her I'll shake you." One of her children had been beaten across the head with a cane.—Complainant said she was the only teacher who used the cane, and when she did so she struck the child's hand.—Mr. Marshall did not think there was anything against the complainant in respect to her treatment of the children. He bound the defendant over to keep the peace.

Wandsworth.

CHARGE AGAINST A VOLUNTEER.—George Morgan, a private in the 4th West Surrey Volunteers, was brought up on remand, charged with attempting to pick pockets at Wimbledon Camp on the occasion of the winning of the Queen's Prize.—The prisoner was seen in the private camp of the Queen's Westminister Volunteers. While they were celebrating the victory of Private Fulton the accused, who was in uniform, put his hand in the trousers pocket of Mr. Edgar Henry Bellamy, a member of the Queen's Rifles. It was also alleged that he tried the pockets of other volunteers.—Police-constable 24 CR now said that he had made inquiries and found the prisoner to be a respectable man with substantial means at the bank. His father had been connected with the corps for twenty years, and was assistant regimental instructor.—In answer to Mr. John Haynes, who defended, the constable added that the camp was crowded with people, and there was plenty of champagne and other liquors about.—Mr. Bellamy was recalled, and said the prisoner had his hand in his pocket, but whether he had any felonious intention he could not say.—Mr. John Haynes was addressing the court when Mr. Plowden interposed. He said he was satisfied that the prisoner had no felonious intention, but placing his hands in people's pockets was a practice which should be checked. He allowed the prisoner to be discharged on his father entering into recognisances to bring him up for judgment when called upon.

ATTACK ON A WARDER.—Joseph Walton, who was described as a carman, was charged on warrant with committing a violent assault upon Warder Skipper, of Wandsworth Gaol.—Mr. W. M. French appeared to prosecute on behalf of the Director of Public Prosecutions. He said the prisoner was liberated from Wandsworth Gaol on Friday, having undergone a term of one month's imprisonment for stealing a loaf of bread. On the 23rd June, the day of his admission, he was taken into the cell, and Warder Skipper supplied him with his supper. Without any warning of any sort, the prisoner went behind the warder, seized him by the legs, and, lifting him off his feet, dashed him with considerable force against the wall, inflicting a wound above the left eye and exposing the bone. The warder was at present unable to attend the court in consequence of his injuries. This extraordinary conduct could not be accounted for, and it was first thought that the prisoner was not answerable for his actions, but a medical examination proved this impression to be inaccurate.—The clerk then read the sworn information of Mr. James Bird, the principal warder of the prison. It was to the effect that he received a party of prisoners, including Joseph Walton. He answered his name quietly, and while he (Mr. Bird) was writing the names, he heard a noise, and found Skipper on the ground bleeding. The information also described what actually took place.—Mr. Plowden remanded the prisoner for the attendance of the warder.

Dalston.

A VENTRILOQUIST AND HIS WIFE.—Francis Gordon Campbell Hunter, 25, describing himself as a professional ventriloquist, of Acton-road, Westbourne Park, was brought before Mr. Bros, on a warrant charged with threatening his wife, Elizabeth Abigail Hunter, whereby she apprehends she goes in danger of her life.—From the evidence of Mrs. Hunter and other witnesses, it appeared on the 19th June last the prisoner was brought up on a warrant and charged at this court with threatening his wife by holding a razor over her. He was then ordered to find one surely to keep the peace, and after being in gaol for some days his brother came forward and stood as bail for him. On this the prisoner was released, but on the same day he went to the residence of his wife's father—an ex-police-inspector, residing at Leyton, in company of a police-constable, and told the officer to take the father and mother into custody for stealing his goods. He answered his name quietly, and while he (Mr. Bird) was writing the names, he heard a noise, and found Skipper on the ground bleeding.

The information also described what actually took place.—Mr. Plowden remanded the prisoner for the attendance of the warder.

Stratford.

ALLEGED WHOLESALE ROBBERIES FROM CHILDREN.—Margaret Gray, 17, Margaret Gray, 44, and Anna Gray, 22, all living at 84, Greenway, Manor Park, were brought up in custody, charged with being concerned together in stealing various articles of children's clothing and table linen during the months of May, June, and July.—At the opening of the case it was stated by Inspector Moss that there were over twenty separate cases of theft of clothing against the prisoners, and the bench decided to go into a few only of these.—The evidence showed that one of the prisoners was stopped by the police when carrying a large bundle of clean linen, which the constable put into a galvanic battery, on a shelf. In the course of his remarks the constable struck up the Marseillaise. Cardinal Manning, who was attired in full canonical dress, and preceded by a priest carrying a cross, advanced to address those assembled. His Eminence endorsed the views of the French Ambassador, and enumerated the advantages that would be derived by the French residents in London, stating that they were incomparable. The site of the new hospital is in Shaftesbury Avenue, and has cost £7,000. The cost of the erection and furnishing of the building will be about £20,000. The committee has already received the following donations.—The French Government £2,000, Madame Patti £1,000, M. Nicols £1,000, M. Waddington £1,000, and Messrs. Rothschild £1,000. The architect is Mr. T. Verity. The orchestra, under the direction of M. Hervé, then played a selection of music, and the proceedings closed with God Save the Queen.

THE HORSEY RAILWAY ACCIDENT.—Dr. G. Danford Thomas held an inquest at the Horsey Coroner's Court on the body of Frederick Jolley, aged 49, engine-driver in the employ of the Great Northern Railway Company, lately residing in Commercial-road, Spitalgate, Grantham, who, as already reported, was killed on the 20th inst. at Horsey Station in consequence of a goods train he was driving dashing into a signal-box.—The coroner elicited in evidence that the signals for the passenger line were at safety, and he remarked that the deceased had probably been betrayed into a momentary forgetfulness of the nature of his train, or had mistaken the signals, and so driven on.—The jury returned a verdict of accidental death, adding that, in their opinion, the deceased, being unfamiliar with the road, probably mistook the signals, and recommending that, if possible, some more effective communication should be provided between the guards and drivers of goods trains.

A HUMAN PUMP.—At Helena, Ark., says a correspondent of the Pittsburgh Dispatch, there is a coloured man named Mack Hamilton, who has been making a show of himself on the streets of that town. Some of his feats consist of eating large quantities of porcelain and glass without any deleterious effects. His appetite is always in good order, and for a dime he will eat enough to convince the most sceptical that there is no trick about it. He also drinks as much as a gallon of water at a time, and then with a motion of his right arm—such a motion as is given to the handle of a pump when pumping—the water comes out of his mouth in a stream as clear as when first swallowed. He also is able to drink boiling water, and ejects it by means of a pump-like process, and when it is emitted it is hot enough to scald. He swallows live frogs and small snakes, and by a simple motion of the arm they are forced out of his mouth. He has drunk half a gallon of whiskey without feeling the slightest inconvenience. He has had some splendid offers from different people to go in a show, but he prefers to be his own master. He has a dread that some doctor will kill him for the purpose of making an examination of him.

A MEDICAL OFFICER CENSURED.—An adjourned inquest was resumed by Mr. Wyatt on Saturday afternoon at the George and Dragon, St. George's Road, Camberwell, relative to the death of Thomas Fry, aged nine years, the son of a general dealer residing at 28, Garfield-road, Peckham.—When the inquiry was opened on Thursday evening the mother of the deceased said that the child went out on Sunday night, and got very wet. He slept with the witness, his sister, aged 14, and his brother, 16, the father sleeping on the floor in the same room, in which they all slept and lived. During the night the boy exhibited signs of illness and became very sick. As he got worse, Dr. Bloomfield, of Ryelane, the parish doctor, was sent for. He was told that the mother had no money, and he declined to come without an order from the relieving officer. He told the mother to go to another doctor, but she said she could not as she had no money. On returning home the witness did what she could for the deceased, but he died on Tuesday morning. A post-mortem examination, made by Dr. Duke, of the Kennington Park-road, revealed the fact that death was due to inflammation of the left lung and pleurisy. The doctor said he had known worse cases recover, and although he could not say it positively he thought that had the child received proper medical treatment or been sent to the hospital he might have recovered.—Mr. Woodward, the coroner's officer, was despatched to fetch Dr. Bloomfield, but he returned, informing the court that the doctor had another case to attend to and could not come. The inquiry was then adjourned, and the doctor was subpoenaed to attend.—On his appearance he was questioned by the coroner and jury as to his reasons for neglecting to attend the child.—In the first place, the doctor said, the woman would have no legal claim upon him to attend without the relieving officer's order; in the second, the woman did not tell his servant that the matter was urgent; and in the third, he had another important case to attend. He denied that he had been told the woman had no money, and could not go to another medical man. It was the practice to apply to the relieving officer, but he knew that the mother had no money and could not have gone to another medical man he would have attended the woman without the usual order.—The room was cleared for the jury to consider their verdict, and when the public were re-admitted the foreman said that the boy died a natural death, but they had passed a vote of censure upon Mr. Bloomfield for neglecting to attend the child in his capacity of parish medical officer.—The coroner concurred, and Dr. Bloomfield walked out of court without saying a word.

WHERE ARE THEY?

The constantly reiterated statement that the police have caused all the disturbances in Trafalgar-square, which have been made by Messrs. Saunders, Conybeare, and Cunningham Graham, received a singular negative on Saturday afternoon. By a previous arrangement made with the sitting magistrate at Bow-street, none of the leaders of the so-called Social Democratic party were present, with the result that the square was perfectly quiet all the afternoon. There was nothing to disturb the public peace, and the police had no one to show their "brutality" upon. The people were present in large numbers, and in addition to the crowd in the square the balustrade in front of the National Gallery was lined by a large assemblage of spectators. The leaders of the movement were, however, absent, and beyond promenading about the square, the people had nothing to do. Itinerant vendors of revolutionary literature drove a fairly good trade among the good-humoured strollers in the square. There seemed to be an exceedingly good feeling existing between the police and the people. The constables and plain clothes-men strolled about, but there was little occasion for their services until about half-past four o'clock, when a man, giving his name as Robert Lambert Allen, was arrested for obstructing the police and for disorderly conduct, and taken to King-street Police Station. Just at six o'clock a balloon was perceived floating high in the air, and attracted a considerable amount of attention. After the unexpected appearance of the aerial voyager, the assemblage, finding nothing more to interest them, dispersed.

A WALTHAMSTOW MYSTERY.

EXTRAORDINARY DEATH OF A YOUNG WOMAN.

Strange Details.

A mysterious affair, attended by circumstances of an extraordinary and sad nature has been brought to light this week at Walthamstow. The scene of its enactment is a chemist's shop, owned by Mr. Henry Hamilton, and situated in Markhouse-road, and not far from St. James' street Railway Station. Mr. Hamilton is an old-established chemist in Walthamstow but gave up business a year or two ago. As the place, however, began to popularise he re-opened the premises, and placed them in the sole charge of a man named William Barber. On the 21st inst. Mr. Barber sent his errand boy, a lad aged 15, named Frank Playle, to a Mrs. French, residing at 203, Boundary-road, Walthamstow, with a note, instructing him not to deliver the epistles to any one but Mrs. French, and when no one else was present. The lad went to the address indicated, and Mrs. French opened the door, but was accompanied by her husband, therefore the lad made some excuse and returned to his master. Mrs. French was only 22 years of age, and had only recently been married, her husband being employed as manager to Mr. Hudson, a grocer in the neighbourhood. After a lapse of time Mr. Barber sent the lad back with the note to Mrs. French, who this time was alone. She read the note, and replied "Yes." The lad on his return gave Mr. Barber this answer, and was sent for a shilling's worth of brandy. Mrs. French arrived at the shop shortly after his return with the spirits, and was shown into an ante-room or parlour at the back of the shop. This was about four o'clock. Mr. Barber told Playle that he might go home, which he did, evidently being used to leave for his tea at that hour.

Mrs. French was then in the Parlour.

What transpired between this period and six o'clock, a lapse of two hours, is a mystery. Playle returned to the shop at six o'clock, but having failed to gain an entrance by the front door he scaled the wall which separates the garden from the footpath in Prospect-place, and entered the house by the back door. He then found Mrs. French lying on a couch in the parlour, and she was dead white. Failing to discover Mr. Barber, the lad summoned assistance. Dr. Thorpe was soon in attendance, and coming to the conclusion that the woman was suffering from chloroform poisoning, and having unavailingly applied the usual remedies—Dr. Blight was summoned, and he decided to perform the operation of tracheotomy, which gave relief, but consciousness did not return. By some means the police heard of the affair, and Superintendent Chambers coming to the house sent for one of the divisional surgeons, Dr. Chambers. Throughout the night and all the next day efforts were made without intermission to restore consciousness, but without effect, and the unfortunate young woman died about midnight on Sunday, the 22nd inst. Meanwhile the police, on searching the premises, found that

A Robbery had been Committed, the till having been plundered, and from £12 to £15 abstracted. The assistance of several officers was obtained from the Lee Bridge-road Police Station, and diligent search was made for the missing chemist, but without avail. In the meantime, the endeavours to restore Mrs. French were continued, and police constables were engaged to restore animation by artificial respiration; but after lying unconscious for thirty-two hours the unfortunate woman breathed her last shortly before midnight on Sunday. The room smelt strongly of chloroform, and on the table in the apartment were found bottles containing brandy and soda, ammonia, chloroform, and other liquids such as would be likely to counteract the effects of an overdose of chloroform. The room was not in disorder, nor were the clothes of Mrs. French disarranged except about the throat. An examination of the deceased failed to show any signs of an assault.

Who Barber is:

The hypothesis which is favoured by the doctors and the local police is that the chemist had arranged to perform an operation; and although no instruments were found on the premises, he could easily carry them away with him when he escaped in his alarm at the condition of his victim. Mrs. French, it is stated, paid frequent visits to the chemist at the shop, and was always received in the parlour, while he in turn visited her residence on Sundays, and occasionally took his meals with her and her husband. Since the death of Mrs. French the police have been trying to discover the whereabouts of the missing man, but hitherto without success. No one appears to have seen him leave Walthamstow. He is a native of Hitchin, but had been in the United States for a considerable period, where he took his diplomas. These, together with all his correspondence, have been taken possession of by the police. The description of Barber is as follows:—William Barber, aged 35 years, chemist's assistant, height 5 ft. 5 in., complexion, hair, and moustache fair; near-sighted; dressed in a grey jacket, dark trousers, and a hard felt hat. He is splay-footed." The police have obtained some excellent photographs of him, and they are being reproduced for publication.

Some Theories.

The explanation of the administration of chloroform at all in this case is still sought. Various sensational allegations have been circulated, but so far, Tuesday's medical examination does not support any of them. There is absolutely no evidence of outrage, of violence, or of immoral practices. On the other hand, the woman's teeth were very much decayed, and it is believed to be not unlikely that she endeavoured to obtain relief from her friend, the chemist. She might, it is suggested by some, even have had recourse to the chloroform bottle herself, supposing, in her ignorance, that it was as harmless as "camphorated chloroform," which is a popular specific for toothache. Barber, it was clear, had tried his utmost to resuscitate her, but some reason required to be assigned for his suspicious flight. He is charged also with emptying his employer's till, although it is not true that he took Mrs. French's purse. For what reason he wrote to her, and why she stayed with him for over two hours in the back room of his shop are points which remain also to be cleared up. That Mrs. French was a frequent visitor to the shop in Markhouse-road is a statement corroborated by the neighbours; but the most circumstantial account is that which was given on Tuesday by the boy, Frederick Playle, who, when asked whether he had ever carried letters to Mrs. French from his master on any previous occasion, answered in the negative, but added that notes had passed between Barber and Mr. French, which the wife of the latter sometimes opened. The lad recalls that for several months Mrs. French was in the habit of calling at the shop in Markhouse-road usually about eleven a.m., and that whenever she came Barber despatched him on errands which would be in some cases detain him for a hour or two. If he returned earlier he was immediately sent out again, but Playle affirms that he then noticed the door of the ante-room was shut, and he formed the impression that Mrs. French was still there because of his master's behaviour. He says, nevertheless, that he never saw her in the back-room, and no patients were ever received in this private sitting-room. Six months ago Mrs. Hamilton, who attended to Barber's domestic wants, died, and since then there had been an arrangement by which Mrs. French supplied him with his meals, for which he paid. Mrs. French went to see her mother pretty regularly, because she kept some business books for her, and on the way to the house she would have to pass the chemist's, and Barber might exchange a word with her at the door. Mr. French believes Barber to have been drinking, and not

to have been accountable for his actions until his mistake sobered him.

THE INQUEST.

The Husband's Evidence.

The inquest on the body of Mrs. Annie French was opened on Wednesday, at the mortuary of the Walthamstow Cemetery, before Mr. C. C. Lewis, the coroner for South Essex.—Mr. Arthur George French, husband of the deceased, was called, and stated that he resided at 203, Boundary-road, Walthamstow. He was assistant to Mr. Hudson, grocer, in the same thoroughfare. The deceased was 22 years old. He had known her for upwards of five years, and had been married to her for two. He had resided at Walthamstow for over five years, and was married at St. Peter's Church, Walthamstow. His wife followed no occupation, and only had her household duties to attend to. He last saw her safe and well at a quarter past two o'clock on the afternoon of the 21st, when he resumed his duties after dinner. He dined with his wife at about one o'clock, and left her as stated. No one else was present, and she then seemed to be in the best of health.—The Coroner: Was she in good spirits?—The Witness: Yes; first class, she was.—Did she not complain of anything?—She said she thought she had the toothache coming on again, but nothing to speak of. The witness added that his wife had had an attack of toothache fortnight previously, when she purchased a small bottle of chloroform from Mr. Hamilton's shop, and the bottle was now at home with Mr. Hamilton's name upon it. The deceased did not intimate to him on Saturday that she was going out. Indeed, she made no remark on the subject. The witness's residence was adjacent to the shop. As near as he could learn, his wife left home about three o'clock. He did not see or hear anything of her again until about seven o'clock in the evening. On finding his wife out when he went to his tea he thought she had gone to her mother's house.

How He Found Her.

At seven o'clock Mr. Jackson, a friend, sent for him, and he went to the shop of Mr. Hamilton, chemist, where he found the deceased lying in a parlour leading out of the shop. Dr. Thorpe was with her, as were also Mr. Patchett and Mr. Drummond. The deceased was unconscious.—The Coroner: Were you at all aware that she was going to Mr. Hamilton's shop?—No. Mr. Hamilton had a manager, named William Barber, who did not himself reside on the premises. The witness remained with his wife until she died, at about quarter to twelve on Sunday night. He had known Barber for two years. He was no connection, and the introduction of him to his wife came through the witness. Barber was a single man, and about 35 years of age. He was in the habit of coming to the witness's house, a friendship existing between them. They used to take early morning walks together, and as a rule Barber was at the house every other day. The distance between the witness's place of business and the chemist's shop was about a quarter of a mile. Barber, as a rule, dined with the witness on Sundays.—The Coroner: Were you aware that your wife was in the habit of visiting him?—Yes; but she always told me of it. She had business in that direction to see her mother, and would call in as she passed.—Have you ever had any suspicion that any improper intimacy was going on?—Not the least. He was not aware that his wife had been in the habit of receiving letters from William Barber. Had searched for but could not find a letter alleged to have been delivered on the Saturday.—Has the deceased ever made remarks to you with reference to Barber?—She has told me that

She Utterly Disliked Him, and wished he would keep away from the place.—Anything else?—No, I don't think so.—In reply to Detective-inspector Glass, of the Criminal Investigation Department, the witness said that the photograph produced was that of the man Barber.—By a Juror: For about two months there had been an arrangement by which Barber was to send to his house every day for a dinner, which his wife cooked. The witness made the arrangement and Barber paid for what was supplied him. After his wife told him she disliked Barber the witness treated him coolly, but continued to supply the dinners. Barber was very peculiar last Sunday week.—In what way peculiar?—He was very quiet. We could not get a word out of him. He said he was very miserable. My wife left the room while he was there.—Did you ask him why he was miserable?—He said he was lonely.—A Juror: Was he a man who drank freely?—Yes.—Do you know what he drank?—Spirits, lately.—Have you ever seen him the worse for drink?—No.—By a Juror: Deceased's teeth were in a bad state, several of them having decayed, and she had spoken about them to Barber in the presence of the witness.

The Boy's Statement.

Frederick Playle, a lad, was next examined. He said he resided at Low Hall Farm Cottage, Walthamstow, and was errand boy in the service of Mr. Hamilton. There was no other person engaged in the shop besides Barber and himself. Mrs. French had come to the shop every morning for about nine months past.—About what time, as a rule, did she call?—About eleven o'clock.—Did she remain any length of time?—I was sent out of the shop when she came.—Who sent you?—Mr. Barber.—Do you recollect what he said when he told you to go out?—No. He generally had something ready for me to go out with.—Did he do that in the case of other people who called?—No; only when Mrs. French called. When I came back I generally found some one in the back parlour. Mrs. French left through the shop. I was usually gone about half an hour, and, as a rule, Mrs. French was there when I returned. If Mrs. French had not gone, Barber used to send me out again.—Have you ever seen them sitting down together?—She was sitting on a chair and he was standing.—Have you ever seen anything particular between them?—No.—Did they seem to be on very friendly terms?—Yes.—But you had never seen him put his arm round her waist or anything of that sort?—No, sir.—Further questioned, the witness said Mrs. French had been to the shop on Saturday morning. She then simply came in and went out again, saying she would call as she came back from her mother's. The witness was not in when she returned. About twenty minutes past one the witness was sent by Barber with a note to Mrs. French. This was when he went for Barber's dinner. The note was sealed, and Barber told him he was to give it to Mrs. French if Mr. French was not in the kitchen, but if he was in the kitchen the witness was to bring the note back. Mr. French was in the kitchen, and consequently he took the note back. After the witness had his dinner he was again sent with the note, and he handed it to Mrs. French, and Barber told him he was to give it to Mrs. French if there was anything to go back, and she told him to reply "Yes." When the witness told Barber, he replied, "That's all right," and sent him for some brandy—a shilling's worth. As the witness was going for the brandy he saw the deceased enter the shop. This was about a quarter past three. The witness returned in about five minutes and found the shop door closed. He knocked at the side door, as instructed by Barber. The latter took the brandy and shut the door, remarking that it was all right.

His Manner Appeared Dull and Strange.

The witness then went home, and returned about six o'clock in the evening. He then found the front door of the shop locked, and knocked at the side door, but received no answer. He got over the back wall into the yard, and entered the house through the back kitchen, the door of which he found unfastened. The witness observed that Barber had not had his tea, and then knocked at the parlour door, but, receiving no reply, he went into the room.—Having got in, what did you find?—Mrs. French reclining upon the couch. She was lying with her head resting partly upon

her right hand and partly against the wall. It was more against the wall.—Did you see anything of Barber? Nothing. The deceased appeared to be unconscious and did not seem to breathe. Her bonnet, cape, and umbrella were upon the table.—Which way was her face?—Towards the shop door. She was in a sitting position.—What did you do?—I ran through the shop and unlocked the front door, and called Mr. Patchett, a butcher, residing next door. The witness saw no signs of any letter lying about. The witness had been in the habit of getting brandy for Barber. During the last week he had spent 12s. in brandy, purchased in pint bottles. Previously to last week he had fetched Barber whiskey and brandy in small quantities. The room was in the same condition when the doctor was fetched as it was when the witness first entered it. The witness said he only fetched chloroform on one occasion from Mr. Hamilton's second shop, and that was nearly a year ago. Had seen Barber attempt to extract teeth about half a dozen times. The instruments were kept in the back parlour on the top of one of the cupboards, but the witness had not seen them about recently. There was no sign of anything of the kind when he first entered the room where Mrs. French was on the Saturday morning.—By a Juror: The witness was on friendly terms with Barber. At times, when Mrs. French called and only stopped a few minutes she did not wait for the shop, and then the witness was not sent away.

He was never Allowed to Stay

when Mrs. French was in the parlour, except occasionally on a Saturday night, when he would wait for his wages.—Mr. John Patchett, butcher, residing in Markhouse-road, next door to Mr. Hamilton's (chemist) shop, said he had known the deceased by sight for about six months. He had frequently seen her go to the shop—perhaps twice or three times a day. As a rule, she called every time she passed. Although he had seen her go by without going in. He had noticed that at times she remained in the shop a considerable time. On Saturday evening, about five o'clock, the witness was informed by his son that customers were waiting to go into Mr. Hamilton's shop, the door being locked. But he did not remember seeing Barber during the 21st, but about six o'clock he was called by the last witness, and on going into the back parlour he found the deceased in the position described by the previous witness. Her clothes did not appear to be at all disarranged, but there were several bottles upon the table and mantelpiece. The witness, during the afternoon, had heard no noise or disturbance in the house, and had not noticed anything peculiar about Barber during the last week or ten days.

The Medical Evidence.

Dr. George Thorpe said he was in practice at Markhouse-road, Walthamstow, and on Saturday evening, at about six o'clock, was called to the deceased. He attended at once, and found the deceased in a sitting position upon a couch in Mr. Hamilton's back parlour, with her feet upon the ground. She appeared to be insensible, and the witness could scarcely detect her breathing, the respirations being about five or six a minute, and the pulse very feeble, about 120. Her pupils were widely dilated, and the muscular rigidity was gone. The witness smelt the deceased's breath, and discovered a strong odour of chloroform. Her clothes were not disarranged, except that the front part of her dress was unbuttoned four or five buttons from the top. There was no towel round her dress. It is believed that the woman was a confederate of some of the numerous card-sharps, or boneteurs, who infest the railway lines around Paris, and it is quite probable that the booty flung out of the window was picked up by her friends. The other instance of feminine craftiness and criminality was of a more peculiar character. Last week a good-hearted widow—Madame Ceriser by name—was visiting a cemetery when she observed an elegantly-attired lady kneeling before a tombstone and sending up piteous wails to heaven. The heart of the widow was melted, particularly when on venturing to offer consolation to the magnificently-arrayed mourner she was told by that person that she was the Comtesse de Saint-Rémy, and that she was weeping for the loss of her lord, whose name and coat-of-arms were duly embazoned on the tombstone before which she knelt. Madame Ceriser conducted the Comtesse out of the cemetery, hailed a cab, and invited her newly-found acquaintance to accompany her home. The intimacy thus begun soon developed into friendship, Madame Ceriser receiving a daily visit from the Comtesse. On Saturday the lady with the sham title, who gave her Paris address at a good hotel, began financial operations for the first time. She asked the widow for a loan of £30, promising to send her funds in a few days. The unsuspecting Madame Ceriser opened her escritoire, and produced the requisite sum, but on calling at her friend's hotel for the first time, she was informed that no such person as she described was known in the place. Of course, the adventures who performed this peculiar "confidence trick" has not since been seen or heard of.

Result of the Post Mortem.

On the previous day, in conjunction with Dr. Blight, the witness made a post mortem examination of the body. Externally there were no marks or bruises of any description, except such as were caused by endeavouring to restore animation. All the membranes of the brain were quite healthy, and there was no fracture of the skull. The lungs were swollen and watery, but there was no pulmonary disease. The heart was natural in size, but the right side was gorged with blood, showing obstruction to circulation, and the left side was emphysematous. Witness could not detect chloroform in the abdomen, but detected it slightly on opening the heart. At one end of the stomach there were indications of congestion of the tissues, but otherwise the stomach was healthy, as were also all the other organs. The witness was of opinion that death was the result of chloroform inhalation, but he could not be positive until the contents of the stomach had been analysed. He had preserved the lungs, windpipe, stomach and its contents, as well as other parts. The deceased was not emphysematous.—Have you any reason to suppose that she had been violated in any way?—The witness: None whatever.—By a Juror: The teeth were very badly decayed, but nothing had been apparently recently done for them, nor were there any instruments about the room.—Mr. French, being called at the request of Detective-inspector Glass, said he had no reason to suppose that his wife had been robbed.—Detective-surgeon Davis, E Division, said that the deceased was a scholar at the board school in Whitley-street, and after school hours he was employed by her master as errand boy. On the several occasions mentioned he was sent with money to be deposited at the branch of the City Bank in Tottenham Court-road. He had the pay-book in book with him, and was told to bring it properly signed.—Mr. Partridge observed that it seemed to be a very imprudent thing to send a child so young with so much money to a bank.—The witness said that she always watched him as far as the corner of the Tottenham Court-road, lest he should be molested and robbed. On each occasion he came back with the book initialed as if it had been done by one of the clerks. On the 21st June he showed her the signature, remarking, "That's a funny way to sign the book!"—Mr. J. Gulton Crow, a clerk from the City Bank, said that on none of the dates named had money been paid in by the prisoner, neither were the initials in the book those of any connected with the bank.—Mr. Barrsmith wrote for money to be paid to customers in London, to do and debit him with the amount. The handwriting not being like that of Mr. Barrsmith, the clerk wrote to Mr. Stadenhagen, who was away in the country at the time, for advice. By return of post he received instructions to telegraph to Adelaide to ascertain if the letter was all right. The telegram was handed to the prisoner to take to the telegraph office. The reply telegram was afterwards brought in to the clerk by the prisoner authorising him to pay two cheques mentioned in the letter. The cheques were drawn and forwarded to the addresses given in the letter. After that being done, a letter was received from Mr. Barrsmith saying that the letter purporting to come from him was a forgery. The telegram authorising the payment of the cheques was then examined, and it was found that the original writing on it had been erased, and other writing written over it. From that time the accused had not attended to his duties at the office, giving illness as an excuse. A clerk went to his house in the Battersea Park-road, and he, after a conversation admitted that he had forged the letters, altered the telegram, and obtained the money. He said that he had bought a bicycle and various other things. He had thrown about £100 into the river.—The accused was remanded.

Barber Seen in the East-end.

The man Barber, who is supposed to be responsible for the death of Mrs. French, has, it is stated, been seen in the East-end of London. A tram conductor, engaged on the line running between Aldgate and Hackney, was on Wednesday struck with the furred appearance of one of his passengers, who wished, he said, to get to Euston Station, and who wore a blue serge coat and trousers, and a light silver-headed walking stick. Afterwards, on seeing the portrait of Barber, the conductor at once recognised it as being that of the passenger.

Funeral of Mrs. French.

The coffin containing the remains of Mrs. French was on Wednesday evening removed from the local mortuary to the house of her husband, arrangements having been made for the funeral to take place on Thursday afternoon at Bow Cemetery.

What is Thought in the Neighbourhood.

Mr. John Patchett, butcher, who gave evidence on Wednesday at the inquest, informed our reporter on Thursday afternoon that both Mrs. French and Mr. Barber were very popular in the district. On the morning of her death Mrs. French called at Mr. Patchett's for some meat, and remarked to him, "I want a nice bit of tender steak." Mr. Patchett was then under the impression that it was for her mother, who was a customer, but he says now that the steak might have been intended for Barber. Mr. Patchett added, "I can't tell myself why Mr. Barber keeps away." It is the general belief here that Mrs. French met her death through a mistake.

Mr. Hamilton states that his theory of the case is that Mr. Barber was about to stop a tooth for

Mrs. French, and administered chloroform to her for that purpose. Finding, however, that she did not regain consciousness, Mr. Hamilton thinks that his assistant at once fled rather than face the consequences of his imprudence. "Although I do not believe myself that there is any criminality on his part," remarked Mr. Hamilton, "I believe that nine out of ten men would have left the district when the medical evidence is, he may, perhaps, return. I hope he will. When I give my testimony at the adjourned coroner's inquiry I can only say that Mr. Barber has served me well, that I never had any reason to complain of his conduct, and that I am sorry he has not returned to face the matter out. I say positively that I do not believe there is any charge against him. What he certainly should have done, when he found that he could not restore the unfortunate woman, was to have sent for a doctor at once, and have explained the case to him. I have known Mrs. French in the district for five years. She always was a lively little woman—as lively as a kitten—but I do not believe there was anything wrong between her and Mr. Barber."

Later Details.

Since Barber has abandoned the police authorities in many parts of the metropolis and suburbs of London, have received information of a man answering the description of Barber, having been seen in their respective localities. Searching investigations have necessarily resulted, but they have proved fruitless, and the police look upon them as scars, similar to those experienced during the period that the notorious convict Jackson was at large. As early as Sunday evening last Barber was reported to the police to have been seen in Bermondsey, and from inquiries that have been made the police have already discredited the tramway story. It is not improbable, as previously stated, that he has made his way to the continent with the money which was taken from the till in Mr. Hamilton's shop, making the best use of the eight hours start he had of the police; but the prevailing opinion seems to be that he is concealed somewhere in, or near the locality where the mystery had its origin. On Thursday night Detective Glass and other officers who are investigating the case, had not made any arrest.

"SMART"

tion of public opinion. But, justly, as the Parnellites would be punished by such a course, Ministers would be unwise to take it. To do so would be to lay themselves open to the charge made against them by Lord ROSEBERT at Stansted, the charge of wishing to prosecute political opponents from party motives. The Separatists would then certainly not fail to take advantage of the English love of scrupulous fair play to try to persuade the country that such was the wish of the Government. From any such suspicion, however groundless, the Government and the Unionist party must carefully keep themselves free. Their course, therefore, is clear. If the Opposition will not accept the measure substantially as it stands it should be abandoned altogether. In that way Mr. PARNELL and his friends on the one hand, and the Times on the other, will appear before a tribunal which, happily, cannot be paralysed by any devices of old Parliamentary handicraft—the tribunal of public opinion. And, if Mr. PARNELL and his friends are content to abide by the verdict of that tribunal, then the Times may be equally satisfied, and so also, most assuredly, may we.

The time has really come for the police to take more energetic action in "moving on" members of the Salvation Army who create obstruction by holding religious services in the Queen's highway. That they should have been allowed to do so for so long a time with so little interference is probably due to the fact that their meetings are convened in the name of religion. It is wholly to the credit of the police that they hesitate, as most Englishmen do, to interfere with a professedly religious assembly. But everybody now sees that the question has nothing to do with religion. Religion can be preached without the preaching being a public nuisance, which this Salvation method unquestionably is. In several recent cases, and more particularly in one at Hampstead last Wednesday, magistrates have laid down the law very clearly, and have not hesitated to enforce it. But something more is wanted. Instructions should be given to the police to deal summarily with these obstructionists as with other obstructionists. The promoters of the Trafalgar-square nuisance have frequently defended themselves on the ground that they were doing no more than the Salvationists were allowed to do. This sort of excuse must no longer be given them; and the Salvationists must not be allowed to annoy the general public in the name of religion.

The Railway and Canal Traffic Bill was read a third time in the House of Commons on Wednesday. The measure has not passed its third reading without being subjected to considerable alteration and amendment in committee. It is gratifying to notice that such changes as have been made are entirely in favour of the agricultural interest so largely affected by this bill, the railway companies having given way all along the line. As to the commission which is to constitute the tribunal for the decision of disputes, that will consist of five commissioners, two of them appointed and three ex-officio, and one of the appointed members will be a person skilled in railway business. The scope of the commission is largely extended by the bill, and they will be empowered to award damages in cases where damages are justly due. The bill gives to the Board of Trade full power to determine such classification of maximum rates as is "just and reasonable." On the subject of undue preference to foreigners, the bill is hardly as clear as it should be. On the whole, however, it is a measure to be cordially commended.

THE SALE OF HORSE-FLESH AS FOOD.

At the Liverpool Police Court on Wednesday, before Mr. J. Dickinson, deputy stipendiary magistrate, Arthur Fisher, butcher, 114, Scotland-road, was charged with exposing for sale twelve pieces of meat, unfit for human food, on the 19th instant.—Mr. Marks stated that the meat in question was placed amongst a number of pieces of good beef and mutton, but it was horse-flesh. He did not contend that a man had no right to sell horse-flesh, but, like other meat, it must be good and sound. Yet this meat was a portion of an old horse, diseased and partly decomposed, and smelt as if it had been heavily drugged before it was killed.—Inspector Quinby stated that most of the pieces of horse-flesh were ticketed at 5d. per lb., and they smelt more like a corpse than anything else.—The defendant said his father had sent it to him from Manchester.—Dr. Hope, deputy medical officer for Liverpool, said the sanitary authority did not interfere with the sale of horse-flesh if it was sound, but this was diseased and smelt as if some kind of medicine had been given to the animal.—T. R. Fisher, a retired butcher, residing in Manchester, said he brought the hind quarter of a horse to his son in Liverpool on the 16th inst. He bought it from William Dalton, butcher, 106, Tatton-street, Salford, said he had a private slaughter house in Union-street, where he slaughtered two or three horses a week, and sold the flesh at threepence and fourpence a pound in Manchester. The hind quarter which he sold to T. R. Fisher on the 16th inst. was sound and in good condition. He paid 2s for the horse. It was about seven years old and was lame. It was in good flesh.—Mr. A. W. K. Fordham, veterinary surgeon and cattle inspector for the borough of Salford, said he visited Dalton's slaughter-house in the course of his duty on the 16th inst., and there saw a horse freshly dressed. It was well fed and in good condition, and there was no sign of any disease. He saw the stomach, and there was no sign of medicine in it, and every organ was sound. The horses slaughtered by Dalton were generally those which became lame or met with accidents that disabled them.—The magistrate said he was of opinion that this meat was unsound and unfit for the food of man, but as the defendant had not been convicted before he should only fine him 5s. and costs.

POCKET-PICKING IN THE STRAND.

At Bow-street Police Court on Friday, Joseph Blackman, aged 22, was charged with being a suspected person, loitering outside Terry's Theatre for the purpose of committing felonies.—Detective-sergeant Bright stated that on Thursday night, just before the theatre closed, the prisoner went to one of the exits, and as the crowd passed out he followed two ladies. He had an overcoat over one arm, and with the other hand attempted to pick the pockets of the ladies. He then proceeded to the front entrance, where he made similar attempts and was taken into custody. It was stated that he had been convicted and sentenced to fourteen days' imprisonment for a similar offence. On that occasion he received an excellent character from a man who was shortly afterwards sentenced at the Middlesex Sessions to four months' imprisonment for larceny from the person.—Mr. Bridge sentenced the accused to three months' imprisonment with the accused to three months' imprisonment with

LONDON SCHOOL BOARD SCANDALS.

At a meeting of the board on Thursday, the Rev. Joseph H. Diggle, chairman, vacated the chair in favour of Sir Richard Temple, in order to move the following resolutions:—That a letter be addressed to the Education Department, asking them to remove Mr. George Macdonald from acting in any capacity as inspector in any of the schools of the board. That the board express their regret that the Education Department, in conducting the correspondence in relation to this matter, should not have dealt more fairly and frankly with the board, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Education Department.”

“That the board express their confidence in Mr. Clague (one of the inspectors of the board), and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to him and to the Education Department.”

A letter was received from Mr. R. M. Beachcroft, on behalf of Mr. Macdonald, the writer observing that one allegation brought by Mr. Clague, an officer of the board, against Mr. Macdonald, had been proved to be false, and that no evidence was forthcoming to substantiate the second allegation. The letter went on to say:—“The allegation not proved is that Mr. Macdonald induced a teacher in a school in the district in which Mr. Macdonald acts as assistant-inspector to become collateral security for him, by joining in a promissory note, the only ground for the allegation being that about two years ago, on his father's death and consequent occasion for supplemental help, he borrowed £10 from a society, repayable by instalments, and that he gave the name of a friend who was a teacher in his district as a reference; the £10 having been repaid by instalments by Mr. Macdonald himself within a year from its being borrowed.”

Mr. Diggle spoke at great length, and with considerable warmth upon the question, and denounced the conduct of the Education Department in the course taken with regard to the correspondence which had ensued between that authority and the board. He (Mr. Diggle) did not ask the department to dismiss Mr. Macdonald, one of her Majesty's inspectors, but he certainly ought not to be allowed to again act as inspector in any of the board schools. (Hear, hear.) An inspector who had been proved to have borrowed money from a teacher whose school he visited.—(Great disorder. Sir Richard Temple rising in his seat and exclaiming, “Order, order, I must ask the members not to interrupt.”) was not fit to enter the board schools; one who, in fact, had had monetary relations with the teachers. Whenever you have that kind of relationship between her Majesty's Inspectors on the one hand, and teachers on the other, I think, said Mr. Diggle, “it is a relationship the board cannot countenance.”

“Hear, hear.” The rev. gentleman, contending that he should prove the case against Mr. Macdonald up to the hilt, read the following letter addressed to Mr. Bates, the teacher, by Mr. Macdonald:—“My dear Bates.—Mr. Cummings is very pleased with your letter, and so am I. (Laughter.) I have such an attack of lumbago and worry that I am not at all well, or would call and see Mr. Beachcroft very early. I will, however, send you a complete account of the case, which you shall show to him. Thanking you for your kindness, and in hopes of a speedy victory, faithfully yours, GEORGE MACDONALD.”

He (Mr. Diggle) presumed that the Mr. Cummings was the gentleman whose name appeared at the foot of all correspondence in relation to this matter which had proceeded from the Education Department. (Laughter and surprise.) And from whom was the “speedy victory” to be obtained unless it was from Mr. Clague? The rev. speaker having alluded to the fact that at one Board school the questions for the examination of teachers for certificates were known before the examination took place, moved the resolution he had proposed.

Mr. Barnes seconded the resolutions, but appealed to Mr. Diggle to withdraw the first.

After several amendments had been lost, the Rev. Charles Gull moved, “That the chairman of the board be requested to forward to the Education Department the statement made by him to the board, for their information and investigation.”

This amendment was carried.—At a quarter to nine, after five hours and a half had been spent in the discussion of this subject, the ordinary business was commenced, but according to the rules no opposed recommendation could be taken, and the board shortly afterwards adjourned.

ANOTHER GREAT LOG-RAFT.

Mr. Leary, who built the great log-raft last December, has a New York correspondent says, repeated the experiment in a different form. Since February 300 men have been busy at Port Joggins, Nova Scotia, building a log-ship, lashing together huge timbers into a cigar shaped mass somewhat resembling a vessel. It is 700 feet long, 65 feet wide, 38 feet deep, and contains 30,000 logs from 40 feet to 50 feet in length and 1 foot to 2 feet diameter, mostly pine and cedar. Seventy-five tons of steel-wire rope, 1½ in. and 2 in. thick, were used for lashing, together with stout saplings. The timber is valued at \$60,000. It would require 100 schooners to transport the contents. The monster fabric has been ready for launching during the past three weeks, but the builders were awaiting the high tide which at that point on July 25th every year reaches a height of over 60 feet. When it was at the highest point on Wednesday at noon over 100 feet of the raft were floating. Then at a given signal 100 heavy check-blocks were knocked away and the 20,000 tons of logs slid gracefully into the water. The largest and strongest tug in the neighbourhood was in readiness to make fast and towed them out into the bay. Two powerful tugs will be employed to tow this novel ship to New York city. It is thought that it will be under way in three days, and that with fair weather it will reach its destination in ten days. One of the tugs would be sufficient for the task under ordinary circumstances, but in case of a storm a second tug will be at hand to avoid a repetition of the fate of the last raft. Owners of vessels will watch the project with interest, for if successful it will detract largely from their carrying trade.

HEAVY DAMAGES AGAINST A RAILWAY COMPANY.

At the Nottingham Assizes on Friday, William Henry Taylor, lace manufacturer, sued the Great Northern Railway Company for damages for personal injuries sustained through the negligence of defendants' servants. The plaintiff's case was that while he was sitting in a carriage it was driven suddenly against fixed buffers in the station at Nottingham, and he was thrown violently to the other side of the carriage and back again, the result being that he had been permanently injured, and his business suffered accordingly. Letters read showed that the company had offered £2,000 to settle the claim, but this was deemed inadequate. For the defence the company admitted the negligence of their servants, but contended that the plaintiff's condition was not altogether due to the accident. The jury gave a verdict for the plaintiff for £2,154 17s.

FOREIGNERS IN THE EAST-END.

Superintendent Arnold gave evidence before the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the emigration and immigration on Friday, as to the influx of Jews and foreigners to the East-end. He stated that in the locality where they have stationed themselves the English workmen have been driven away. They were dirty in their habits, and in passing along the streets it was perceivable that they were not clean in their persons. (Laughter.) They were industrious when they obtained work. He had seen them at work late at night. Often he had seen Jews who had arrived without money wandering about the streets aimlessly. There were two institutions—one where they were maintained for fourteen days, till they obtained employment, and the other an eating-house, where they were provided with dinners. They were charitable institutions. When any of the Jews failed to get work he believed they were supplied with money and sent on to America.

THE NAVAL MANOEUVRES.

A Blockading Squadron at Work. In connection with the naval manoeuvres now going on round our coasts, a correspondent writing on Wednesday from on board the Ararat, flagship of Admiral Rowley, says:—“War was declared at noon yesterday (Tuesday), and we have already had a smart engagement with the enemy's ships. As yet we have no casualties to report, but it is feared that one of Admiral Fitzroy's cruisers escaped in the night, and if so trouble may soon be expected on the British coast. This squadron left Lamlash soon after noon on Monday, and steamed slowly to a position off the port in Lough Swilly to be blockaded, arriving there at about eleven a.m. on Tuesday, or an hour previous to the moment when the Admiralty had apprised us that the British Government intended to declare war. When the bells struck eight and the captain made twice o'clock, the weather was calm and hazy, with an inclination to rain. In front of us lay the enemy's coast, stretching from Inishtrahull Island on the east to Tory Island on the west, and with the Signal Station on Malin Head and the lighthouse at the entrance to Lough Swilly, perhaps fifteen miles away. Scattered on either hand lay the cruisers and battle ships, forming a double semicircle round the port, with the inflexible somewhat nearer in than the other vessels. To get a clear idea of what ensued, it is well to state the forces on either side, and the relative value and order of superiority of the cruisers in the two squadrons. The Britons are marked B; the Achill force (Admiral Fitzroy) with an A; Agincourt (A), Inflexible (A), Iron Duke (A), Neptune (A), Bellisca (A), Shannon (A); Rodney (B), Invincible (B), Devastation (B), Black Prince (B). Those are battle-ships. The cruisers are Thames (A), Inconstant (A), Amphion (B), Calypso (B), Mercury (A); then four of equal value, Tartar (A), Serpent (B), Hawk (A), and Curlew (B); and two of equivalent, Grasshopper (A) and Spider (B). About one o'clock the Amphion and two smaller cruisers of the enemy were reported by our scouts to be leaving the harbour, evidently reconnoitring. The Mercury, which, with two of our torpedo boats, had been off Farrad Lighthouse, at once retired, followed by the Achill vessels. About the same time a small funnelled steamer was reported steaming in the direction of Malin Head. The report that the enemy was in sight drew nearly every one in the flag ship on deck, for it was almost ideal weather for blockading, and the interest in the proceedings, which had hitherto been lacking, had been aroused by the admiral making public his orders and instructions soon after we left Lamlash. The Amphion had now approached the Inflexible within the specified distance and at two o'clock exactly the turret ship opened fire, and went ahead full speed for the cruiser. A smart chase ensued, and if the engagement had been a real one it might have fared hard with the Amphion. As it was, with her fifteen knots she soon distanced the ironclad, and got within the zone of fire of the theoretical forts which defend the harbour. The Inflexible also was delayed by a man falling overboard, who was, however, picked up without worse hurt than a ducking.

A FOE IN DISGUISE.

At five o'clock it was reported that the Achill squadron was coming out in force. The admiral closed in his lines and steered towards the land with most of his vessels to the support of the Inflexible, the enemy being made out as the Rodney, Black Prince, Invincible, Amphion, Calypso, and Curlew. As the two fleets gradually closed, a signal was seen to be made from the Amphion to the two funnelled vessel already mentioned:—“We have seen two of the enemy's torpedo boats; have you seen anything of the others?” It was then apparent that this vessel, which up to now had been reckoned as a disinterested spectator, was at least in league with the foe, and she was also recognised as the Hearty, an armed tug attached to the Reserve. As she was not officially one of the enemy's ships, Admiral Rowley made a signal to her to come out to us, which signal she answered in the customary manner, but took no steps to obey. This was great impudence, and she, being then under the Signal Station on Malin Head, the admiral ordered the Thames and Neptune to go in and bring her off. Away dashed both vessels to the command, but, instead of attempting to head her off from the entrance to the Lough, they steered for her direct. At first the Hearty seemed inclined to seek shelter behind Glanedy Island; but as the Amphion was now approaching with the intention to get between her and her pursuers, the commander evidently thought better of it and made for Dunafin Head, a high promontory marking the eastern entrance to Lough Swilly, with the Thames, at ten minutes past six, opened fire, followed by the Neptune, the two Achill vessels being within 4,000 yards, and all going for the harbour at full speed. Shortly after half past six the Rodney opened fire on our advancing ships, whereupon we beat to quarters. The men mastered at their guns, our tops were lined with sharpshooters, and there seemed every chance of the action becoming general. We, too, were within the prescribed distance, and now opened fire. Then the enemy withdrew slowly, and soon it was announced that, according to the rules of the game, the flagship had drawn the fire of the theoretical fortresses. Hard over went the helm, up went the signal for a general recall, and swinging round to starboard, the British Squadron stood away once more to their blockading positions. The Hearty and Amphion had escaped into the harbour.

Skirmishing at Berehaven.

A correspondent on board Admiral Tryon's flag ship, Hercules, writes:—“Early yesterday morning operations began in earnest. At 10.40 the last anchor was cast-headed, and the Hercules leading the way, the squadron steamed slowly out towards the Atlantic. The Rupert was anchored between the eastern end of Bere Island and the mainland, protecting the fleet with her guns, her fourteen inches of armour, and mines and cables reaching from her sides to either shore. She gave a narrow passage between herself and the first mine, through which the squadron steamed in the following order:—Hercules, Warspite, Ajax, Hero, Volage, Iris and Cossack. Of this fleet the Ajax has 24-inch armour, a thickness matched by only twelve of the Empire, not forgetting, however, that the Nile and Trafalgar have 27-inch. In Admiral Bains' fleet, which Admiral Tryon has to circumvent, are the Benbow and Collingwood, both with armour equal to the Ajax. The Conqueror has 16 inches. Hotspur 11, Monarch 10, Northampton 9, Northumberland 5. Admiral Tryon knows well that his fleet is no match for theirs, but he hoped to manoeuvre so as to lure some of the enemy within range of our harbour fortifications, which in this war game represent nine 100-ton and thirty-one 92-inch 18-ton guns. It was reported that the Monarch is coaling at Crookhaven, and to prevent this alone would be well worth a effort, for adds the correspondent, coal is the vital need of our blockading squadron, and every ton we can make them waste is an addition to our prospect of breaking away from here, under the favourable conditions of a dark night or foggy day. At eleven o'clock the signal was made by the admiral, “Close order.” Meanwhile quarters were sounded, and the decks cleared for action, for on the horizon we could just make out the enemy's masts peeping up in the sunshine slightly dimmed by mist. By half past twelve we got a full view of the enemy awaiting us in the offing in the following order, commencing at the south, our left hand:—Northumberland, Benbow, Conqueror, Hotspur, Northampton, Collingwood, and Mersey. The latter suddenly headed at full speed in the direction of Berehaven, as though bent upon attacking the Volage, which had worked her way beyond the rest of the fleet to windward along the shore. The Iris and Severn were, however, ready, and in a trice were after the Mersey. At 12.40 the Mersey sent forth a burst of smoke, and soon came the crack of her 18-ton breech-loader over the sea and back to the hills, followed by another and

another, until the three ships were enveloped in clouds. The challenge was quickly accepted by the Iris and Severn, who opened so hotly on the for that she took to her heels, sending a Partisan shot as she moved out of range. Although by the rules of this war the Mersey did not remain long enough under our fire to be destroyed, there is no doubt that in actual war she would have paid dearly for her temerity. The rest of the afternoon was spent in cruising in the mouth of the bay, in vain seeking to entice the enemy, who were too crafty to be allured near shore. Admiral Tryon took the opportunity of exercising his four battle ships in naval tactics, a drill they stood much in need of; although, in view of the fact that they had heretofore no experience of the kind together, the result was by no means unsatisfactory. While torpedo boats 57, 51, 41, 25, 49, and 78, belonging to the enemy, were anchored about fifteen miles from us in Crookhaven, a short fire was opened upon them by our valiant allies the coastguard, at 300 yards range, who fired fifteen rounds, without receiving any in return. The Archer subsequently entered the harbour, but not until the six torpedo boats were figuratively sent to the bottom.

1,300 MILES IN AN OPEN BOAT, AND SIX WEEKS ON A DESERT ISLAND.

Two seamen, named John G. Crone and Jas. R. Wilson, late of the Scotch barque Henry James, have arrived at the Liverpool Sailors' Home, and given information of the loss of that vessel. The Henry James at the time of the disaster was going from Newcastle, New South Wales, to San Francisco. She had a crew of nineteen hands and tea passengers, besides a steward. She struck a coral reef near the island of Palmyra, in the Pacific Ocean, and became a wreck. In an hour the crew had to abandon her, experiencing the greatest difficulty in getting away. The shipwrecked people only saved what they stood in, even the ship's papers and the captain's instruments being lost. One boat containing provisions was swamped, and the food lost. The captain nearly lost his life through being thrown into the sea. Fortunately, a box of matches was got ashore dry, and with them a fire was lighted. The island of Palmyra was found to be uninhabited, but a search revealed a number of small huts made of boards and leaves. The island is about 900 miles from Samoa. The mate, who had saved his sextant, volunteered to go in a small boat to Samoa to seek for aid, and a boat was accordingly manned, the mate having for his companions the boatswain and three seamen. These poor fellows were three weeks in the open boat, and their sufferings were very severe. They traversed about 1,300 miles, and their food and water gave out. Had the voyage been lengthened but a couple of days it is likely all would have either gone mad or perished from starvation. The shipwrecked people on the island were in the meantime living on wild birds, birds' eggs, and on cocoanuts. The men had no arms with them, and the only means of catching the birds was by sticks, and having to get within reach of the birds before they could be caught. In the first days the only water the people had was what they caught by spreading out the leaves of trees. The matches at last got wet, and they could not make their accustomed fire. A powerful telescope glass then furnished a burning glass, and enabled them to get fire once more. Altogether they were on the island six weeks. Of the passengers two were ladies and four children. At the end of this time the mail steamer Mariposa called at the island and rescued the people from their island imprisonment, taking them to Honolulu. They subsequently reached San Francisco. The two men who arrived at Liverpool came from New York in the Cunard steamer Servia, and were afterwards sent home by the local branch of the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society. They belonged to Maryport.

THE EMPEROR FREDERICK'S DIARY.

There has been a great deal of gossip of the wildest and most scandalous kind about Prussian State papers which are alleged to have been found missing at Potsdam after the death of the Emperor Frederick, and it is stated that they were handled by the Empress Victoria to the Queen when her Majesty was at Charlottenburg, and that they are now in England. The real truth, however, which reaches me from a trustworthy correspondent in Germany, says the World, is that the diary of the Emperor Frederick cannot be found. The Emperor had kept a journal during more than thirty years (ever since his marriage), which was not a mere record of his movements and occupations, but an elaborate running commentary upon public affairs—both political and social—very much in the style of Mr. Greville's Memoirs. This diary was contained in thirty immense volumes, each being secured by a lock, and directly after the Emperor's death his successor, the Prince of Prussia, demanded that the whole of them should at once be given up, in order that his Majesty's reminiscences might be placed among the Prussian state archives at Berlin. The Empress refused to surrender the volumes, and when a second and more peremptory application was made after the Emperor's funeral, her Majesty announced that the diary had been taken to England by her husband, and that she would probably publish it, as it had been her husband's particular wish that it should be published after a suitable revision, and that he had requested her to act as his literary executrix. The Empress, I hear, added that justice to the late Emperor's memory required this publication, as he would derive as much benefit from it as her father, the Prince Consort, did from the publication of Sir Theodore Martin's work. The idea of such a proceeding is, however, very obnoxious to Prince Bismarck, who apprehends that the Empress might take what he would regard as an extremely inadequate view of his duties as editor; and, of course, the Emperor William objects very strongly to any publication which might reflect upon German policy in the past, or which might be in any way injurious to what he conceives the present or future interests of the empire. Here the dispute rests, but one may predict with confidence that there will be no publication for some years to come, and that when the diary does appear it will contain nothing to which either the Emperor or his advisers can reasonably take exception.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS--Monday.

Irish Railways.

Lord CAROGAN, in reply to Lord Greville, stated that the Government had been considering the subject of the purchase, by the State, of the Irish railways but had not been able to arrive at a definite conclusion as to what should be done to carry out the recommendations of the Royal Commission.

The Sale of Foreign Meat.

On the motion for the second reading of the Foreign Meat Bill, the object of which is to require butchers dealing in foreign meat to take out licences and put up notices in their shops to that they deal in such meat. Lord ONSLOW expressed disapproval of the bill. He offered, however, to move for a select committee next session to inquire into the whole subject of the sale of foreign meat in this country under the name of British. The bill was withdrawn.

HOUSE OF COMMONS--Monday.

Affairs in Zululand.

On the adjourned debate on the report of supply a discussion arose on the policy of the Government in Zululand. Sir J. Gower said the sovereignty of the Queen over Zululand must be maintained, and that it was impossible for the Government to tolerate the presence in Zululand of a man who stirred up the people against the authority of the British crown. In the discussion which followed, Mr. MORLEY thought the Government were going the wrong way about the pacification of Zululand. Mr. CHAMBERLAIN expressed the hope that the policy which had been adopted in the case of Cetewayo would not be followed in that of Dinizulu. The motion was ultimately withdrawn, and the report of supply was agreed to.

The Charges Against the Parrotine Members.

Mr. W. H. SMITH moved the second reading of the bill for appointing a special commission to inquire into the charges and allegations against members of Parliament. He said the position had been completely altered since the Government refused to appoint a select committee last year. The judges whom the Government proposed to appoint as commissioners were Sir James Hannan, who would sit as president, Mr. Justice Day, and Mr. Justice A. L. Smith. Mr. PARNELL, in criticising the bill maintained that it proposed, not an inquiry into his conduct and that of his friends, but an inquiry into the whole agitation of the Land League, not only in America, but also in Ireland and Great Britain. If that was the object of the Government let them say so, and bring in a bill to inquire into the Land League. The bill, under the guise of making inquiry into his conduct, was brought forward for the purpose of casting discredit on a great Irish movement, to traduce the Irish people, and to provide a means of escape from those charges against himself which the Attorney-general knew full well would break down. He was to be put to the expense of providing counsel for this inquiry, to follow it to Ireland, America, or elsewhere for the purpose of clearing himself from charges of forgery which, if the inquiry went to the point, he could demonstrate to be forgeries within a week. If the Government had anything to say against his conduct, let them appoint a commission to inquire into it; he knew he would come out unscathed. All these charges were known when Lord Carnarvon, in 1885, invited him to meet him in an empty house. Nothing had happened from that day to this, to point an additional charge against him, except the pretext of these forged letters. He called upon the Government to limit the scope of the commission to the charges and allegations made against himself and other members of Parliament. He asked that the inquiry should be a judicial inquiry, that it be conducted as any judicial proceeding for libel and that there should be a definite specification of the charges.

Mr. GLADSTONE said his attitude towards the present bill would depend on the answer given to Mr. Parnell's demands; but any inquiry had strong claims on his assent if he was unable to obtain a better and more constitutional form of investigation. He enforced the demands of Mr. Parnell, and as to the names of the judges he must take time for consideration, as he was not prepared to give the tribunal unqualified confidence. The HOME SECRETARY replied and stated that the Government declined to be the interpreters, framers, or explainers of the charges or to consent to any limitation which would tie the hands of the commission. Sir C. RUSSELL contended that the bill could not be allowed to pass as it stood. The SOLICITOR-GENERAL held that the reception of the bill showed that it was the desire of the Irish party to escape from the inquiry altogether. Mr. T. P. O'CONNOR and Mr. LABOUCHERE continued the debate, and the latter was addressing the House when midnight arrived, and the debate accordingly stood adjourned till Tuesday.

HOUSE OF LORDS--Tuesday.

The Law of Libel.

The Libel Amendment Bill was considered in committee, and a considerable number of amendments were introduced. The publication of "scandalous" matter was excepted from privilege, the public meetings of which the reports were privileged were limited to "bona fide" public meetings, and privilege was withheld from meetings where the proceedings were intended to be private. On the motion of Lord COLERIDGE, a new clause was inserted providing that no criminal prosecution for libel should be commenced without the assent of the Attorney-general or the order of a judge at Chambers, and without the accused having an opportunity of being heard against such application. Progress was reported that some further amendments might be made on the bill.

HOUSE OF COMMONS--Tuesday.

Trying to Wriggle Out of It.

Mr. LABOUCHERE resumed the discussion on the second reading of the bill to inquire into the charges against Irish members and others. Mr. WHITEBREAD asked for definite charges, a fair trial, and no favour. Mr. CHAMBERLAIN said the difficulty in the way of appointing a Select Committee lay in the fact that such a committee would be both judge and jury. Still he was sorry that the Government had not granted a committee, because the result would have been unsatisfactory, and it would have led the way to a different kind of investigation. As to the limitations to be placed on the inquiry, he thought the letters constituted the principal charge, but he objected to limit the inquiry to the authenticity of these letters. It was impossible also to limit the inquiry to the Irish members. He suggested that the Government should consider whether, if the inquiry was conclusive, the reasonable expenses of both parties should not be paid by the nation. Sir W. HAROUR supported that the inquiry should be conducted upon judicial principles. If so, the charges should be clearly made, and the persons to be arraigned should be named. If the Government would not consent to this, the bill was nothing but an attempt to hoodwink the public. The charges might be defined by Mr. Parnell, or by the defendants in the recent trial, or by the court. He would not trust the Government to do this who were racing for blood. The Government desired a commission that they might work it as a subsidiary agent to the Crimes Act. He objected to the form of the bill, and would endeavour to amend it in committee in the direction indicated by Mr. Whitebread and Mr. Chamberlain. The SOLICITOR-GENERAL for Scotland defended the bill, which, on the other hand, was described by Mr. HEALY as a bill for making a fishing inquiry. Sir J. SIMON gave notice that he would move in committee that the words "other persons" be struck out of the bill, and that some direction should be given to the judges as to the

course of procedure. Mr. HUNTER regarded the tribunal as unconstitutional. The ATTORNEY-GENERAL gave an account of his conduct in connection with the course taken at the recent trial. He said every step was taken with the entire concurrence of Sir Henry James, who was associated with him in the case. The motion for the second reading was put and agreed to, without dissent. The committee stage of the bill was put down for Monday.

COMMONS--Wednesday.

The Sheriff of Middlesex.

The House agreed, in committee, to a resolution authorising the payment of an annuity out of the Consolidated Fund, in respect to the Sheriffy of Middlesex. Mr. RITCHIE explained that under a grant of Henry I. the City had undertaken to pay the sum of £300 a year for the purpose of appointing the Sheriff, which sum the Crown sold, and the annuity had now come into the possession of certain ladies. As the Local Government Bill took away the privilege of appointing the Sheriff from the City the Crown would have to pay the annuity.

Railway and Canal Traffic Bill.

The Railway and Canal Traffic Bill, as amended by the Standing Committee on Trade, was then considered. The ATTORNEY-GENERAL accepted an amendment by Dr. Hunter, providing for the transfer of proceedings relating to Railway or Canal questions from the Superior Court to the Railway Commissioners, provided that such transfer shall not affect the rights or liabilities of any party to such action or proceeding. The bill, as reported by the Standing Committee, was agreed to, with a few further amendments, and was read a third time amid cheers.

Imperial Defence.

The report on the resolutions on Imperial Defence (Expenses) was agreed to, and the House went into Committee on the National Defence Bill. A discussion of great length arose on the second clause, which empowered Her Majesty to call out the Yeomanry and Volunteers for actual and military service in Great Britain. It was stated by several speakers that the Volunteers would willingly accept the changed conditions of the service which the clause introduced; but fears were expressed that they would be unacceptable to employers of labour. This was repudiated by other speakers, and the debate on the clause had not terminated when the hour for adjournment came.

The Arrest of Mr. O'Kelly.

The SPEAKER read a letter from Sir James Ingham, chief magistrate at Bow-street, announcing the arrest of Mr. O'Kelly, M.P. Mr. PARNELL and several Irish members pressed Mr. Balfour to instruct his legal agents in Ireland not to oppose bail; but the CHIEF SECRETARY replied that he was not aware whether there was ground for bail or not.

HOUSE OF LORDS--Thursday.

The Hampstead Heath Extension Bill was read a third time and passed.

Proposed Leap from a Balloon.

Lord MILLTOWN gave notice that he proposed to-morrow to ask her Majesty's Government whether the attention of the Home Secretary had been directed to an announcement in the papers that Professor Baldwin would, at the Alexandra Palace on Saturday, jump out of a balloon 1,000 feet above the ground; whether the announcement was genuine; and, if so, what steps would be taken to prevent so dangerous and demoralising an exhibition.

The Law of Libel.

The House went into committee on the Libel Law Amendment Bill. Lord MONCKMELL expressed his intention of introducing a clause to make the person responsible who uttered a libel at a public meeting and reported in a newspaper, the report being privileged. The bill was reported to the House.

The Companies Bill.

Their lordships further considered this measure in committee. A number of amendments having been agreed to, the bill passed through committee.

Rifle Range.

Lord COLVILLE of Culross asked the Government whether it was true that the War Department had applied to the Board of Trade for a large portion of the sea on the north shore of the Solent to be buoyed for the purpose of a rifle range. He contended if the application were granted that it would be dangerous to men-of-war and other vessels, and would also be destructive to the fishing industry of the Solent. Lord HARRIS, in reply, said the range had been in existence for some years, and the precautions which the military authorities had taken to protect the public had led to this agitation on the subject.

HOUSE OF COMMONS--Thursday.

The West London Commercial Bank.

In reply to Mr. Whitmore, the SOLICITOR-GENERAL said that he had made inquiries as to the West London Commercial Bank, and he found that since May last a dividend of eight shillings in the pound had been paid to the creditors, and that considerable progress had been made towards the winding-up; and in a few days they would be in a position to pay a further dividend, bringing the whole up to 18s. in the pound. Due diligence was being exercised by the liquidator.

The Volunteers and Richmond Park.

Mr. PLUNKET, in answer to Mr. Kimber, did not think that the hoarding in Westminster Hall would be a convenient place to exhibit a map of Richmond Park, showing the site of the rifle ranges proposed by the National Rifle Association for inspection by the public and parties interested, but he should with pleasure lay on the table a copy of the application of the National Rifle Association. He had already made a report to the Cabinet on the subject; and in answer to the inquiry whether he would draw the attention of the Cabinet to the question whether there are or not, as more appropriate places for the purpose, he said that was not a matter in which he had official right to interfere. Mr. SMITH, in answer to Mr. Kimber, said the question of the use of Richmond Park by the National Rifle Association was still under the consideration of the Government. The more general question of whether, having regard to the national importance of the Volunteer Army, one or more central or provincial camps of instruction and competition should be provided for them in touch with the regular forces, and on a basis commensurate with their value to the country, must in the meantime stand over. Sir W. HAROUR asked in what form the Government proposed that the occupation of Richmond Park should come before the House. Mr. W. H. SMITH: There will be a discussion on that question in another place to-morrow; and I must defer any answer till after then.

Mr. O'Kelly's Arrest.

Mr. BALFOUR, in answer to Mr. Hayden, said the meeting held in Boyle, described in the warrant for the arrest of Mr. J. O'Kelly, was held on Sunday, the 24th of June, and was summoned by placard, but at what time it was exhibited he was unable to say. Mr. SEXTON, with reference to the method of arresting Mr. O'Kelly, asked if the Government had any reason to apprehend that Mr. O'Kelly or any other member of the House would endeavour to evade arrest or not to enter court; and whether the Irish Government in future would convey to any member an intimation by summons or otherwise, instead of having detectives searching the approaches of the House and dogging the steps of members. (Cheers.) Mr. BALFOUR replied that there was no legal method by which a member could be summoned in England. It had to be done by warrant. With regard to the question whether he had reason to suppose any Irish member of Parliament would evade going to a

court of law, he stated that two or three, at least had refused to obey summonses. (Hear, hear.)

Business of the House--An Autumn Session.

Mr. W. H. SMITH rose to make a statement as to the course of public business. A few days ago he entertained the hope that it might be possible to abstain from asking the House to sit in the autumn, but he was obliged to come to the conclusion that the state of business would no longer permit of that hope being entertained, and the Government must ask the assistance of the House at an adjourned sitting in the autumn to deal with the votes of Supply which must remain undisposed of in the present sitting. He had endeavoured as far as he could to inform himself of the views of honourable members on both sides of the House, and he has come to the conclusion that it would be exceedingly inconvenient to them and not to the interest of the public service to ask the House to continue sitting through the month of August and into September in order to dispose of the business that must be done before the House was prorogued. He deeply regretted the necessity of postponing Supply until so late a period of the year, and he hoped it would be the last time in the history of Parliament that it would be necessary. Still, the circumstances in which the House was placed warranted the course he was about to recommend. The work of the standing committee had been of the most satisfactory character, and it would be a great misfortune if anything occurred to prevent full effect being given to it. In these circumstances he would ask the House to give effect before the adjournment to the bills which had passed the standing committee, to read the Local Government Bill a third time to-morrow night, and to enable this to be done he proposed to vote the suspension of the twelve o'clock rule. As regards the members of Parliament (Charges and Allegations) Bill he proposed to proceed with it on Monday, and on Tuesday, if necessary, and he hoped that two sittings might be sufficient for the bill. There would then remain for consideration the standing committee bills, the Employers' Liability Bill, the County Courts Consolidation Bill, and the Mortmain Bill, and these he hoped would be disposed of in one sitting. The Government would then ask for a vote on account of the Civil Service, the Army and the Navy. There were two or three Bills relating to Scotland—the Universities Bill among them—and for these bills he would give a day for discussion. There were measures likewise relating to the Imperial defence, to Excise duties, and to the collection of tithes, to all of which bills he must ask the consideration of the House before the adjournment, and a day would be given for the consideration of the Indian Budget. There would also be a bill for the allocation to Scotland and Ireland of the portion of the probate duty for the purpose of local finance. He proposed to take the Sunday Closing Bill at an evening sitting. That was all the important business which he would ask the House to take before the adjournment, and he trusted that with the assistance of the House they might be enabled to arrive at a comparatively early adjournment, so as to obtain the rest they required previous to the autumn sitting, which it was his duty with very great regret to be obliged to ask for.

Local Government Bill.

On the consideration of this bill as amended, Mr. RITCHIE moved the following new clause with reference to the distribution of the probate duty to the new county councils. The Government desired to do away with the connection between pauperism indoor or outdoor, and the amount of probate duty to be received, and they therefore proposed to distribute it in the same proportion as the grants in aid that were to be discontinued. Mr. RATHBONE strongly opposed the new clause as putting a premium upon extravagance. Mr. J. STUART said that the substitution for grants in aid of the probate duty would involve a loss to the metropolis of £200,000, and the net result of the financial arrangement was to save 4d. in the pound on the rates over the rest of the country, with the exception of the metropolis, and to save only 1d. on the rates in London. Mr. SHAW LEFEVRE urged the Government to adopt the principle of rateable value or of population, especially population which would be the best basis of distribution. Mr. GODDARD contended that the opponents to the Government's proposal were inconsistent. It was true London would get less than the remaining portion of the country, but that arose from the fact that London, in the past, had received a much larger share in the way of contributions than any other part of the country. Mr. VULLIAMY sympathised with the difficulties of the Government who had shown an honest desire to deal fairly with this matter. (Hear, hear.) Sir W. HAROUR supported the new clause. After some discussion the House divided—For the amendment, which was agreed to. The clause, as amended, was added to the bill. Mr. HOBHOUSE moved a new clause enabling a county council to promote and oppose bills in Parliament if a resolution to that effect was carried by a majority of the council after an election. The clause was withdrawn after some discussion. Mr. HOBHOUSE moved the following sub-section:—"At the triennial election of aldermen, if any six county councillors join in voting for one duly qualified person, he shall therupon be declared elected a county alderman, but each county councillor shall only vote for one county alderman; and the vacancies remaining, if any, shall be filled up in the ordinary way by such of the county councillors as have not already voted as aforesaid." Mr. RITCHIE thought the practical objections to the amendment, rendered it quite unacceptable. If the House desired some precaution in favour of the minority being represented, there were simpler methods of doing it. After some discussion the House divided—For the amendment 113, against 232. Some further amendments having been considered the House adjourned.

ILICIT DISTILLING IN BIRMINGHAM. An extensive seizure of illicit stills has been made on the premises of Messrs. Stephenson and Son, spirit merchants and general dealers, Birmingham. The premises consist of two vaults, one running at right angles to the other, and it was in the inner vault that the discovery was made. The Excise authorities had a suspicion that an illicit still was at work on the premises, and a force of London and Birmingham detectives, with Revenue officers, obtained an entrance to the vaults on the 21st inst., with skeleton keys. In the inner vault they found two stills of 180 and eighty gallons each. The force remained in possession of the premises in the hope of securing the guilty parties. This involved some hardships, as the place was badly ventilated and exceedingly noisy. The officers were also without food, sometimes for twenty-four hours. As no one appeared at the vaults, they determined to make a raid on Messrs. Stephenson's offices. Mr. Stephenson and his son denied all knowledge of the stills, and explained that they had let the vault to a man named Thompson, who paid six months' rent in advance. It was also ascertained that gas was surreptitiously obtained from vacant premises adjoining, no less than a dozen Bunsen burners being employed.

Mr. TROUTBECK held an inquest on Saturday on the body of Joseph Boucher, 36, who was killed while sinking a well at the Savoy Mansions. A verdict of accidental death was returned.

Mr. EDWARD BENTON, of 75, Alkham-road, Stoke Newington, committed suicide on Saturday morning by shooting himself with a revolver. No cause for the rash act can be ascertained.

THE BOARD OF WORKS SCANDAL.

The Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the working of the Metropolitan Board of Works resumed its sittings on Tuesday at the Sessions House, Westminster, Lord Herschell presiding. The other commissioners present were Mr. Bosanquet, Q.C., and Mr. W. R. Grenfell—Mr. H. Winch, Q.C., Mr. J. P. Grain, and Mr. F. Studd again appeared for the inquiry committee; Mr. Meadows White, Q.C., and Mr. W. Freeman represented the Metropolitan Board of Works. Mr. T. H. Fowler, a member of the board, was called, and submitted a corrected statement of the various matters in which he had been engaged as architect. These were numerous, but in most instances the fees were small. In all during the seventeen years he had been a member of the board he had received in fees £550 for advising clients on plans over which the board had jurisdiction. He also produced plans showing that he had advised on the Criterion alterations respecting the exits and ventilation. At a previous meeting of the committee he had stated that he had not advised, but on inquiring at his chambers he found the plans, which he now produced, witness denied that he had been engaged for Mr. Marshall, a resident of Brixton, in the cutting of a road through Rush Common, and asserted that his only interest in Rush Common was seeing to its preservation as an open space in his capacity as a public man. By Mr. Winch: I had to do with a row of houses at Coldharbour-lane, Camberwell, for Mr. Earle Bird, which were mere elevations, no plans having been in the case submitted to the board. I do not believe these houses encroached on the footway. By Mr. Grenfell: I agreed with the board in their refusal to allow Mr. Grundy, the district surveyor for Paddington, to prosecute in the case of the want of sub-division of Mr. Whiteley's premises. Mr. Snelling, recalled, maintained the truth of his former statement as to the offer of Mr. Fowler to assist a syndicate in getting plans passed by the board of property in Brixton, near Rush Common.

The Late Deputy-chairman.

Mr. GEORGE EDWARDS, the late deputy-chairman of the board, said he was by trade a coach-builder, but had retired from business. He had been a member of the board since 1873. Some time ago he was under the impression that there were some parties on the board who wished directly or indirectly to rule the proceedings. That was what he alluded to at a recent meeting of the board as an "inner cabinet." Lord Herschell: Of whom was that inner cabinet composed? Witness: Well, it is merely a surmise; but I thought it consisted of Colonel Munro, Mr. Kuntz, Mr. Selway, and two or three others who sat round in that corner. (Laughter.) Lord Herschell: Can you tell us who the two or three others were? Witness: I should say Mr. Fowler was one of them, and they had a great interest with members in getting certain matters passed by the board. —Lord Herschell: What matters? —Witness: Oh, questions they took up, and wanted carried out. —Mr. Grenfell: Was Mr. Saunders one of the inner cabinet? —Witness: Mr. Saunders used not to be so much at the board; but certainly he was consulted by the party. —Continuing his evidence, witness said the Pavilion site had never been put up to public tender, but he believed that was an exceptional circumstance. In regard to the Robertson inquiry, he had never voted on the side for retaining Mr. Robertson. He (witness) had grave suspicions of Mr. Goddard, because he had stated to the committee before the Pavilion transaction was settled, that the board were committed to Mr. Villiers. Mr. Vulliamy was then the head of the Superintendent Architect's Department, but he was so weak in administration that witness considered him more the servant than the chief of the staff. —Mr. Bosanquet: Had you any suspicion of Mr. Robertson? —Witness: Oh, yes, I had, through his extravagant style of living. —Mr. Winch: You believed that Mr. Vulliamy for some years was a "mere dummy"? —Witness: Well, anybody could see that Mr. Vulliamy's opinion, when he was in the committee room, was all abroad, and he did not know what he was talking about. He frequently turned round to Mr. Richardson, who "coached" him up. (Laughter.) —Mr. Selway, a member of the board, rising in his place in court, said he wished to deny that he was a member of the inner cabinet of the Metropolitan Board, and he declined the honour of being one of those who controlled the affairs of the board. (Laughter.) —Mr. Winch: Oh! but this cabinet office was one, I understand, without endowment. (Laughter.) —Mr. E. RICHARDSON, an East Indian agent, and a member of the Metropolitan Board of Works, said when Mr. Vulliamy became connected with the service of the Metropolitan Board he was an excellent officer, but of late years he was not a proper head of the staff. As a matter of fact, he had been more the servant of the staff. His resignation was not voluntary, and the matter was not directly brought before the board, as no one seemed to be willing to undertake the unpleasant work of telling the cat

CONSERVATISM IN SOUTH LONDON.

On Saturday evening a fete and garden party was held in connection with the Bristow Habitation of the Primrose League in the grounds of Dulwich Hill House, Denmark Hill, the residence of Mr. T. L. Bristow, M.P. A meeting was held in a marquee, and amongst those present were the Solicitor-general for Scotland (Mr. J. F. Robertson, M.P.), Marquis of Carmarthen, M.P., Sir John Puleston, M.P., Mr. H. Kimber, M.P., and Mr. J. Blundell Maple, M.P. Mr. T. L. Bristow, M.P., who presided, urged all voters in the interest of Lord Salisbury's Government to see that they were properly registered.

The Marquis of Carmarthen, who was warmly cheered, moved a vote of confidence in the Government. He had been strongly criticised for his action in the House of Commons on Monday night, and would just explain what occurred. Mr. Parnell was speaking about the allegations and charges commission, and in the course of his remarks professed very great anxiety that the commission should be appointed, and said he welcomed it. This, perhaps, inadvertently, caused some laughter among the Conservatives below the gangway, and one of the Irish members shouted out, "You pack of cads!" (The marquis) happened to see the very man who made use of the expression, and attempted to call the Speaker's attention to it, when another Irish member exclaimed, "You blackguards!" So much excitement ensued, however, that he sat down. They were repeatedly subjected to insults and outrageous utterances from those whose conduct would disgrace a bear-fest of a body of barges. (Cheers.) He was determined, despite what was said, to protest against such proceedings. Since the Government had been in office they had worked wonders, and had administered the business of the country in a way which could not be commended too highly. Last session they passed many good measures, and now they had put the crown on their labours by conducting the Local Government Bill safely through committee. Great credit was due to Mr. Ritchie for the skill and ability he had displayed in connection with measures full of knotty points. (Cheers.) Mr. Gladstone, at the wine and water feast of Sir W. Lawson, had said it was only a poor skeleton of a measure, and it would be the duty of the Liberal Government, so called, when they came into power to fill it up. (Laughter.) He found, however, that they filled up the measures better on platforms throughout the country than in the statute book of the House of Commons. (Cheers.) He urged them to weigh the revolutionary tactics of Mr. Gladstone before they were prepared to hand over to him the Government of the country. (Cheers.) Major Isaacs, seconded the resolution, and the Solicitor-general for Scotland, in replying on behalf of the Government, said he was pleased to speak in such a Conservative stronghold because he had not to warn the languishing spirits of a defeated or disheartened party. It was sometimes said that the political position of the metropolis was unique and incomprehensible, but did it ever occur to the Radical critics who made such remarks that it was a phenomenon of the very greatest significance. Here was this metropolis, which had made such achievements in prosperity and in wealth, standing in an enormously ponderous proportion on the side of the Union. (Cheers.) It was to him one of the most audacious achievements of political impudence that the Radical party was now going about from platform to platform, proclaiming that it was the champion of education of the people, and at the same time to denounce the result of education immediately intelligence, in the shape of the London constituencies, proclaimed against them. Was it possible to say that a man was the worst judge of what would be good for his country when he had shown he knew how to do well for himself. Looking at what had taken place during the week, there was no doubt the political weather had been clouded and troubled, and he expected that the clouds which might gather during the coming week would be of the darkest hue. (Hear, hear.) The Government had had to frame a policy to meet the reasonable wishes of men of all parties, and had proved that the Tory party could lay claim to the votes and support of sensible men, even though outside their party. He could not understand the policy of a party which professing to keep in view the interests of the British public, yet took no interest in the Local Government Bill, for night after night, when the bill was being discussed in committee, the Opposition benches were almost empty. What were they really interested in? Why such things as the police, for they infested the police courts and were most sensitive and anxious about the smallest tap on the head administered by the baton of a constable in Trafalgar-square (hear, hear, and laughter), but cared nothing about the safety of peaceful citizens. Mr. Gladstone was now ready to give Home Rule to Ireland, while retaining Irish members at Westminster, which meant that Mr. Parnell and his friends were to govern their own country and interfere in the management of England. It would be improper for him to refer to the charges against Mr. Parnell, but he would say that "Parnellism and Crime" lay very near the root of the Irish question. (Cheers.) Mr. Kimber proposed a resolution expressing confidence in Mr. Balfour's administration of the law in Ireland. General Bray, in seconding the motion, said he believed that Mr. Parnell and all the gang of political ruffians were guilty of aiding and abetting the Phoenix Park murders. Mr. Gladstone was trying to shield them from the Royal Commission, and the Irish members were struggling hard and doing all they could to escape the inquiry. The resolution was carried with acclamation.

CONSERVATIVE FETE AT EDMONTON.

At the latter end of 1885 Lord Folkestone's election committee determined to start a Conservative Club in Edmonton, the most Radical part of the Ealing division. For this purpose they hired the rooms, hitherto used for the election committee, and, with a start of five members, have gone on increasing till the number of members reaches nearly 500. Finding that the accommodation was totally inadequate to the wants and comfort of the members, they, last year, hired Brookfield House, a mansion of fifteen rooms, and, after expending £200 and building a billiard-room and fitting it up with two tables, they opened the new premises in March last with a grand dinner, at which Lord Folkestone was present. The subscription is £6 a year, which admits of all classes joining. Since the opening new members have been joining at the rate of twelve a week. The only help the committee—which is largely composed of working men—ever received was £100 from Lady Folkestone, being the proceeds of a concert given by her at St. James's Hall. It is only fair to say, however, that there are several gentlemen who have generously subscribed towards the maintenance of the club. For the purpose of paying off the debt on the club, a grand fete, under the patronage of Lord Folkestone, was held on Saturday in Pymme's Park, Silver-street, the residence of Sir Henry Tyler, M.P. The programme included open air concerts, performances, dances, and all the fun of the fair. At times the weather looked threatening, but the rain, with the exception of a slight shower, held off, and the 4,000 people who were present, seemed thoroughly to enjoy themselves. Lord Folkestone could not be present, or a few speeches would have been delivered. Two bands of music, headed by a splendid banner, paraded the High-road, and afterwards, on returning to the park, played a choice selection of music. Great credit is due to Mr. Elce, the energetic secretary on whom rested the whole of the responsibility; and he and the committee are to be congratulated upon the success of their labours, which will be the means of helping and encouraging those who are engaged in the guidance of the club. A concert followed.

At the Royal Free Hospital on Saturday Dr. Danford Thomas held an inquest on the death of Thomas Salter, aged 44 years, a carman, of 8, Amberley-road, who was injured in Guildford-street by a van belonging to the parochial contractor. Late on Friday night the symptoms took a bad turn, and he died from bronchitis following the injuries. Verdict accordingly.

PRIMROSE LEAGUE DEMONSTRATION AT CHARLTON.

A well-attended and enthusiastic meeting of local habitations of the Primrose League was held Saturday afternoon at Charlton House, Charlton, the residence of Sir Spencer Mayron Wilson. The proceedings, which were attended by members of the Charlton, Blackheath, High-street (Blackheath), Lewisham, Spencer, and Woolwich branches of the Primrose League took place on the fine lawn. The weather was very propitious for the occasion, and consequently many ladies were present.—Sir Spencer M. Wilson presided; and amongst those on the platform were Mr. Board, M.P., Colonel Hughes, M.P., Mr. Cooper Willis, Q.C., Dr. Rontoul, LL.D., Major Grubb, Mr. Penn, Mr. Hurst, &c.—In commencing the meeting, the chairman, who was received with cheers, said that whenever and wherever the Primrose League met, one thing was certain—it had no new doctrines to preach about. (Hear, hear.) The Primrose League were content to abide by the ten commandments—(he, hear, and laughter)—and perhaps they might be summed up in a very few words—fear God and honour the King. (Cheers.) Colonel Grubb remarked that they were all interested in the stability of the Empire, the maintenance of law and order, and the unity of the Unionist party. (Cheers.) He eulogised the work rendered by the executive council and secretaries of the Primrose League, and said they deserved their warmest thanks and congratulations. (Hear, hear.) Since the Charlton Habitation last met in April they had had an increase of 40 members, and they now numbered 350 exactly. (Cheers.) Mr. Board, M.P., said the history of Ireland was an open book, and any body could read it, and as they heard so many perversions of the truth it was right they should keep it before their eyes. (Cheers.) Parliament was not the same place now as it was when the hon. gentleman first went there. There was a certain illustrious personage in the House who rejoiced in his pernicious activity—(laughter)—and there were now politicians there quite out of character with those they were accustomed to, but he was thankful that there had been one less of those during the past twenty-four hours. (Cheers.) Mr. Conibeyre had been one of the most notorious offenders, and almost every hour or sitting his voice could be heard raising some disturbance. (Hear, hear.) He thought his removal would certainly conduce to the business of the House. (Cheers.) Referring to the Local Government Bill, he said he did not agree with it: he thought that the effect of it in the counties would certainly be to make county government worse and increase the expenses (hear, hear). He took a most serious objection to the Bill in reference to London; and if they had a separate municipality here, he believed they would be governed no better than in the past. In conclusion, he said he thought it was exceedingly creditable of the Conservatives and the Liberal and Radical Unionists to have succeeded in conducting the government of the country to the satisfaction of the people. (Cheers.) Col. Hughes, M.P., said he thought the Royal Company should be opened whether Mr. Parnell and his nominees liked it or not. If their characters turned out to be as black as they were painted, the sooner they knew it the better it would be for the members of Parliament and the country in general. (Cheers.) Referring to the recent election in the late of Thanet, the hon. gentleman said that the political position of the metropolis was unique and incomprehensible, but did it ever occur to the Radical critics who made such remarks that it was a phenomenon of the very greatest significance. Here was this metropolis, which had made such achievements in prosperity and in wealth, standing in an enormously ponderous proportion on the side of the Union. (Cheers.) It was to him one of the most audacious achievements of political impudence that the Radical party was now going about from platform to platform, proclaiming that it was the champion of education of the people, and at the same time to denounce the result of education immediately intelligence, in the shape of the London constituencies, proclaimed against them. Was it possible to say that a man was the worst judge of what would be good for his country when he had shown he knew how to do well for himself. Looking at what had taken place during the week, there was no doubt the political weather had been clouded and troubled, and he expected that the clouds which might gather during the coming week would be of the darkest hue. (Hear, hear.) The Government had had to frame a policy to meet the reasonable wishes of men of all parties, and had proved that the Tory party could lay claim to the votes and support of sensible men, even though outside their party. He could not understand the policy of a party which professing to keep in view the interests of the British public, yet took no interest in the Local Government Bill, for night after night, when the bill was being discussed in committee, the Opposition benches were almost empty. What were they really interested in? Why such things as the police, for they infested the police courts and were most sensitive and anxious about the smallest tap on the head administered by the baton of a constable in Trafalgar-square (hear, hear, and laughter), but cared nothing about the safety of peaceful citizens. Mr. Gladstone was now ready to give Home Rule to Ireland, while retaining Irish members at Westminster, which meant that Mr. Parnell and his friends were to govern their own country and interfere in the management of England. It would be improper for him to refer to the charges against Mr. Parnell, but he would say that "Parnellism and Crime" lay very near the root of the Irish question. (Cheers.) Mr. Kimber proposed a resolution expressing confidence in Mr. Balfour's administration of the law in Ireland. General Bray, in seconding the motion, said he believed that Mr. Parnell and all the gang of political ruffians were guilty of aiding and abetting the Phoenix Park murders. Mr. Gladstone was trying to shield them from the Royal Commission, and the Irish members were struggling hard and doing all they could to escape the inquiry. The resolution was carried with acclamation.

CONSERVATISM AT WANDSWORTH.

Mr. R. Horrell presided at a garden party on Saturday afternoon at the Wandsworth-road Constitutional Club. After some remarks from Mr. J. S. Gilliat, M.P., Mr. Stanley Leighton, M.P., stated that there was solidity in the Conservatism of the English people. (Hear, hear.) He said he wished to speak to the members of the club on a matter which concerned the honour of the public mind and the people of this country. The House of Commons would be on its trial before the English people on Monday. Members of Parliament had been accused of terrible crimes, and the people would shortly see how the House of Commons would acquit itself. He thought we should witness a dramatic scene in Parliament next week. Mr. Parnell had demanded an inquiry into the charges which had been made against him and his colleagues. The Government had accepted, in the name of the people, his request. He thought the English people demanded that this inquiry should be a judicial and impartial one—(hear, hear)—and that the whole of the charges which had been made against the Irish members should be sifted to the very bottom. It had been said that the Irish members were content to march towards that inquiry with murderers; murderers provided their funds; murderers shared their councils; murderers had gone forth from the League office to set their bloody work afoot; and they had frequently returned to consult with their constitutional leaders as to the advancement of their cause. (Cheers.) Those were the charges which had been made against the Irish party, and there was going to be a Committee appointed to see what answer they would give. A great authority (Mr. Gladstone) had said—"Behind these outrages there was a strong presumption that there were influences higher than any which belonged to those who committed them." (A Voice: Mr. Gladstone was in office then.) Mr. Parnell was the president of the league. Amongst its officers were Sheridan, who had absconded; Mr. A. O'Connor contended that a Select Committee was not fit to judge matters in a judicial way because it consisted of a chairman and six of the most determined partisans on each side, and we had the opinion of Mr. Dan O'Connell, who had stated that the Select Committee, in matters of this kind, were nothing less than foul purjury. (Cheers.) He, therefore, maintained that if the commission which had been proposed were not accepted, the people of this country would be justified in thinking that Mr. Parnell and his followers were afraid to go before an impartial tribunal, and which tribunal had never been granted to any other persons before "Oh." The people would draw their own conclusions as to the conduct of the Irish members. (Cheers.) A concert followed.

At the Royal Free Hospital on Saturday Dr. Danford Thomas held an inquest on the death of Thomas Salter, aged 44 years, a carman, of 8, Amberley-road, who was injured in Guildford-street by a van belonging to the parochial contractor. Late on Friday night the symptoms took a bad turn, and he died from bronchitis following the injuries. Verdict accordingly.

LITHOGRAPHIC ARTISTS' BENEVOLENT FUND.

On Saturday afternoon a benefit fete in aid of the above fund was held at the Grange, Kilburn, which had been kindly lent for the occasion by Mrs. Peters, a grand councillor of the Primrose League. In addition, Mrs. Peters also undertook a considerable share of the trouble and expense in connection with the fete. The programme was a very elaborate and comprehensive one, and a prominent part in it was taken by the Marquis de Louville, the chairman of the fete committee; while his efforts were energetically emphasised by Mr. J. W. Harland, vice-president of the National Society of Lithographic Artists, and vice-chairman of the fete committee. The fete took the form of a garden party for which the prettily laid-out grounds belonging to Mrs. Peters were admirably suited, and an al fresco as well as indoor concert, while speeches were made illustrative of the objects of the society. These were delivered in the fine old historical baronial hall attached to the Grange, which once formed part of the ancient Kilburn Priory, described as famous, amongst other memories, as the temporary residence of Catherine of Aragon. The concert also took place here. It may be mentioned that the fund, in aid of which the fete was organised, differs from many others in that, instead of what might be described as pauperising the unfortunate, it is administered only in the shape of loans to those in distress, free of interest, and repayable by easy instalments when the borrower might be again in full work. The weather on the occasion was dull and overcast. Rain threatened, but it kept off, and the latter part of the afternoon was very fine. The proceedings commenced at three o'clock, when the band of the 19th Middlesex (Bloomsbury) Rifle Volunteers performed an interesting and varied selection of music, under the direction of the bandmaster, Mr. W. T. Harris. Meanwhile cricket, lawn tennis, and other outdoor sports were available for the amusement of the visitors. At half past four the meeting took place in the great hall before mentioned, when the Marquis de Louville (who is well known as the author of "Entre nous") presided, being supported by Captain and Mrs. Wentworth, the Hon. Mrs. Denman, General Newall, Lady Blake, the Countess of Castles-Mare, Mrs. O'Brien, and many other ladies and gentlemen. The marquis, in opening the proceedings, said that though it was a lithographer's fete with them they made anything but an impression on the stone. (Laughter.) They were invited together under the one glorious flag of art, and when they were "hard up" it was true they were walking about with their hands in their pockets, but their hands were not in other peoples'. In reality no artist ever would be provident; for if they were how could they realise their beautiful thoughts, in spite of the stern reality that stared them in the face. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) Still, let them remember that the journalist, although a brother in art, had a hard, absolute work, which, when it was completed, tired him out utterly; but the artist should bear in mind that the musician's and the poet's work was a sensuous enjoyment, and that they were the spoilt children of nature, and that the journalist had to create the thoughts through the night which should guide the world through the morrow. (Applause.) This society, however, did not pretend to give a mere matter of aims to its members, but to lend for a time small sums of money which would enable them to wait, metaphorically, "till the clouds had rolled by"—(laughter and hear, hear)—and, perhaps, if he might be allowed to joke, the maxim was that they should all live within their margin, even if they had to borrow to do it. (Laughter and applause.) Subsequently the Marquis delivered, with exquisite feeling, a poem of his own composition, entitled, "The Choice of Arms," and on the motion of Mr. Harland, in the absence of Mr. Henry Broadhurst, M.P., who wrote to say he was unavoidably away in the country, a vote of thanks was passed to Mrs. Peters, for her kindness in placing her hall and grounds at their disposal for the fete.—A vote of thanks to the chairman was then given, and the fete concluded.

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THE CHURCH HOUSE.

The first annual meeting of the Corporation of the Church House was held on Saturday afternoon in a tent erected for the purpose in Dean's Yard, Westminster, the Archbishop of Canterbury presiding. There was a very large company present. The report of the work of the executive committee stated that the site chosen for the Church House is on the south side of Dean's Yard, and comprises all the houses on the terrace except three (the acquisition of which is still under consideration) with all the land behind bounded by Tufton-street, Little Smith-street, and Great Smith-street. The freehold of this site has been secured at the sum of £25,500. The receipts up to the end of June amounted to £45,833, and the expenditure to the same total. The liabilities incurred with reference to the site will amount when everything is finished to £42,421, which is covered by the present resources of the corporation.—Lord Justice Cotton, in moving a resolution to the effect that the Archbishop of Canterbury declare the Corporation of the Church House in occupation of the site, said that it would be the means of promoting a union between the members of the Church of England and the different churches in communion with it. There must be a good result derived from it as it would be bringing all together. Mr. G. Talbot, M.P., seconded the resolution, and stated that the executive had acted very cautiously and very economically, but they were still in want of funds for building on the site. He considered the present site as the best that could be obtained.—In replying to the above remarks, the Archbishop of Canterbury said that there had been no small amount of labour in the acquisition of the square block of land for the site. They had received since the subscription list was opened the sum of £23,000. Three thousand pounds had been added to the funds of the Church House in a single fortnight. A great number of books had also been presented to the library.—The Bishop of Carlisle thought it was the beginning of great things, and moved a resolution welcoming the bishops from the United States, from the various colonies and dependencies, and mission fields in all parts of the world.—The Hon. George Cubitt, M.P., and the Bishops of Sydney and Springfield addressed the meeting.

On Saturday Mr. E. N. P. Wood, deputy-coroner for West Kent, was informed of the death by drowning of a seaman named George Tilley, aged 23, and residing at No. 14, King-street, Tidal Basin, Victoria Dock. The deceased was employed on the steam yacht Venados, and whilst getting out of a dingy he missed his hold and fell into the Thames.

Mr. William Carter, coroner, last week held an inquest at the Goat, Cleaver-street, Kennington-road, into the circumstances attending the death of Jane Margaret Winter, aged 4 weeks, the daughter of George Winter, a hairdresser, residing at No. 4, Prince-street, Kennington, who was found dead in bed on Thursday. The jury returned a verdict of accidental asphyxia.

CHILD MURDER AT LIMEHOUSE.

Mr. Baxter held an inquiry at the Town Hall, Limehouse, into the death of a male child, whose body, wrapped in a brown paper parcel, was discovered in an alley running off Burdett-road East. Joseph Campion, a barzeman, living at 26, St. Ann's-street, Poplar, stated that at noon on the 16th inst. he was in Burdett-road, when a girl, apparently a servant, came up to him and asked him the name of the road. She had a parcel in her hand, and after he had answered her she walked slowly down the road. He watched her and saw her enter an alley near a baker's shop. After the lapse of a minute or so she reappeared and made off very quickly. Witness noticed that she had not then got the parcel. Thinking something was wrong, he told a policeman what he had seen, and together they went to the alley, where the parcel was found. Witness went after the woman, but was not able to catch her. Police-constable William Buckingham, 635 K, deposed to securing the parcel and removing it to the police station. He opened it, and found the body of a male child. There was a mark on the neck as if it had been pinched.—Dr. Anderson, assistant divisional surgeon, deposed that he had examined the child. It was full formed, and had been born alive. There were marks as of fingers on the neck, and in his opinion the child had been suffocated by external pressure, intentionally done.—The jury returned a verdict of wilful murder against some person or persons unknown.—The police have circulated the following description of the person wanted:—Age 19 or 20, height 4 ft. 10 in., dark complexion; dressed in blue serge dress, black hat trimmed with blue ribbon, and high-heeled boots and leather belt.

NORWOOD FREE LIBRARY.

Lord Northbrook on Saturday afternoon opened the Norwood Free Library, Knight's-hill, the first of a series of free libraries to be established in different parts of the parish of Lambeth, under the provisions of the Public Libraries Act. The building has been constructed in the Flemish style, and has been erected at a cost of about £4,550, and this, with the cost of books, which will amount to from £600 to £1,000, will make the total outlay about £5,000. The shelves already contain about 6,000 volumes, and further donations of books are expected. The opening ceremony, which was largely attended, was presided over by Mr. T. Lynn Bristow, M.P.—Lord Northbrook remarked that the parish of Lambeth appeared to have taken, if not actually the lead, at any rate the most prominent part, in utilising the law which enabled some contribution from the rates to be applied to the foundation and support of free libraries. He thought that the parish was to be greatly congratulated upon the liberality with which, in several parts, persons had come forward, bearing in some cases the entire, and in other cases the main, cost of the

"THE PEOPLE" MIXTURE.

King Louis of Portugal will at the commencement of August proceed on a tour abroad.

The Leamington magistrates have held that a brake used by a horse dealer in breaking in horses is exempt from the license-tax.

One of Bismarck's admirers is, at least, a practical man. He has presented the Iron Chancellor with a yacht.

Can Siberia be so bad? The number of colonists who voluntarily settle in that part of the Russian Empire has risen to 40,000 a year.

A Times Alexandria telegram states that the area in Egypt under cotton cultivation this year exceeds that of last year by 20 per cent.

Elizabeth Evans, a single middle-aged woman, has obtained £75, at Shropshire Assizes, for breach of promise of marriage by Owen Owens, foreman of the Liverpool Waterworks at Llawn.

A fire broke out on Thursday morning at the North British Distillery Company's premises, George, near Edinburgh. A large amount of damage was done.

Several burglaries have been committed in Dublin during the past week, and as the consequence of extra police vigilance, eight arrests have been made.

The King of Roumania is a believer in the hydropathic treatment. His Majesty is proceeding to Gredenberg, in Austrian Silesia, in order to submit himself to it.

Reports continue to reach Skook of the march of the White Pasha. There has been a defeat of the Khalifa's forces at Darfour, and the Khalifa is evidently in desperate straits.

A Parliamentary committee reports that the staff to the solicitor to the Treasury Department is decidedly in excess of what is necessary, that many members of the staff are paid too highly, and that the working hours are too few.

The relatives of "Money" Miller, thought to be the wealthiest man in Victoria, are disappointed. He was believed to be worth £5,000,000. His wealth is now found to have been only a paltry £1,300,000.

The late Sir John Swale, the holder of a baronetcy created in 1680, was the owner of the Royal Oak Hotel, Knaresborough. The first baronet, in the House of Commons, proposed the restoration of Charles II.

The Postmaster-General has issued a notice stating that on and after the 1st of August private letter-boxes for use during the night may be rented at all post-offices at which a night staff is on duty, and at which there is a delivery of letters to callers during the day.

Serious floods and thunderstorms are reported from Scotland. In Strathconon two stone bridges were washed away. At Airdrie a miner was killed and another injured by lightning; and at Larbert, in Stirlingshire, a hotel was struck and damaged.

Prince Albert Victor unveiled a jubilee statue of the Queen at Bristol on Wednesday, and received the freedom of the city. He was subsequently entertained at luncheon by the Mayor, and in the afternoon distributed the prizes to the Naval Volunteers. Miserable weather prevailed.

At Kao-yu (Yangchow) when a widow marries again, she presents the temple of the tutelary god of the city with a new wooden threshold, believing that she will thus avert the doom with which widows who marry again are threatened in the next world—of being tied with their arms round a red-hot iron pillar.

The last American notion is to carry pent-up gas in your pocket, in the shape of a patented torch, about six inches long, and made of a secret composition thoroughly permeated with gas. It is stated that when lighted these sticks give off a large odourless flame, which burns for about half an hour.

A manifesto has been issued by the Ukraine National Committee, calling the attention of the Great Powers to the oppressive rule of the Russian Government over the people of the Ukraine, numbering 25,000,000 of souls, and praying for aid to throw off the yoke of the "orthodox Tartars" who style themselves "Great Russians."

To make an improved approach to the sands and to connect the two cliffs, it has been decided to construct a new marine drive at Haemgate. Favourable arrangements have been made with the Board of Trade with regard to certain property required for the improvement, and the whole scheme, which will entirely alter the front aspect of the town, will cost £50,000.

The home-coming of Sergeant Ford of Tipton, the winner of the St. George's Vase, was marked by a tragic and melancholy incident. It had been an exciting evening, the drill hall had resounded with the enthusiastic cheers of the people, all was enthusiasm. At the close Major Ford was ascending the steps of the hall, when he fell down in a fit of apoplexy and expired.

A murderous attack has been made on a lady named Hair, at a farmhouse near Kinross. A woman snatched up Mrs. Hair's child, and upon the mother attempting to rescue it, the woman stabbed her repeatedly with a pruning-knife. The servants found Mrs. Hair lying in a pool of blood. Her assailant was apprehended. No motive is yet assigned for the outrage.

He Pao is a sedate daily paper of Shanghai. Here is an extract from a recent number—"At Kao-Ju, in the Yangchow Prefecture, Kianguo, at the third watch of the night, the people heard a sound of laughter from the sky. Opening their doors and looking out, they saw the sky had a bright white appearance all round, shot with red streaks, and a sound descended like human laughter."

So Miss Ida Lena Cooke, the daughter of the enterprising circus proprietor, has been married to her brother, the wealthy young American who claims kinship with a few of America's most notable men. Mr. Dodge led the young lady (with whom, it will be remembered, he previously eloped, his lady-love, however, being recaptured) to the altar at Edinburgh. The bride is 17, the bridegroom 19.

The wife of a painter named Norman living at Fratton, Portsmouth, gave birth on Sunday to four children, three girls and a boy, of whom only one, a girl, is now alive. Mrs. Norman, who is about 40 years of age, is the mother of twenty-one children, of whom nine are now alive. She had previously had twins, and seven years ago she earned the Queen's bounty, giving birth to triplets.

For doing wilful damage at the Lefevre Arms, Lefevre-road, a man named William Sutton was at the Worship-street Police Court, fined £10., and £5. the amount of the damage, or a month's imprisonment. At Westminster a woman was sent to prison for a month for breaking a window at the Gun Tavern, Pimlico. At Hammarstea a fine of £2 was inflicted upon a plasterer for assaulting Mr. George Bell, the landlord of the Lancaster Hotel, Notting Hill.

At the People's Palace this week, the annual show of donkeys and ponies belonging to costermongers and other street traders was held. Last year there were 190 entries; the number of exhibits now is 117. No prizes are awarded, but certificates are given to the owners of all animals which show evidences of good grooming and of being in sound condition for work, the object being not so much to encourage the breeding of prize animals as to place a premium upon their kind treatment.

It is in Utah where the tithe system attains its perfection. Suppose that a Mormon farmer raised 100 tons of hay and 5,000 bushels of coarse grain, he draws 10 tons of hay and 500 bushels of grain to the local tithing-house. The Mormon farmer then takes stock of the feed he has on hand and decides that he has sufficient to fatten 100 steers. He buys the cattle or goes in debt for them. He feeds them to fatness. When they are sold the bishop collects one-tenth of the money received and

ithins, and he gets it, too. What do the Welsh farmers think of that?

The Wesleyan Conference at Camborne, Cornwall, has elected the Rev. Joseph Bush, of London, the president for the ensuing year.

The Duke of Newcastle contradicts the report that he is about to join the Roumanian Church. The rumour, he says, is as false as it is malicious.

Fifteen hundred persons have been rendered homeless by the destruction of the coal mining town of Roslyn, Washington Territory.

Upwards of 5,000 Rhondda Valley miners have been thrown idle by a strike of underground hauliers.

Lord Herrick, hitherto a staunch supporter of Mr. Gladstone, has publicly announced his conversion to Unionist principles.

Sir Morell Mackenzie, it is stated, having completed his report upon the case of the late Emperor Frederick, only awaits the Empress Victoria's permission to publish it.

The Emperor William took leave of the Czar on Tuesday, after an inspection of the Russian fleet, and sailed in the Imperial yacht for Stockholm, on a visit to the King of Sweden.

Mr. William Downing, an Arbourthorne farmer, was anxious about the weather and his crops, rose, opened the window, and accidentally fell out and was killed.

The Exchequer receipts between 1st of April and the 21st inst., amounted to £24,859,531, as compared with £24,920,247 in the corresponding period of the last financial year; and the expenditure to £29,410,453, as against £29,181,327.

In about three weeks the direct railway service between Vienna and Constantinople will be inaugurated. The train timed to arrive at Vienna in forty-six hours, the return journey being covered in six hours less.

A verdict of wilful murder against some person or persons unknown has been returned at the inquest on the man who was mysteriously shot at Tunbridge Wells, under circumstances reported in the Press a short time since.

Mrs. Belva Lockwood, who has been nominated for the American Presidency on the ticket of the Equal Rights Party, is 58 years of age. She began school-teaching when she was 14, and studied law, and was admitted to the Bar when she was 43.

How many know that the Black Prince Tavern in Chandos-street, which has just been closed, was closely connected with the early life of Charles Dickens? "The stones in the street," wrote Dickens, "may be smoothed by my very small feet going to it at dinner-time and back again."

France's commerce seems on the whole in a scarcely healthier state than its politics. Comparing the imports of the first half of 1888 with the first half of 1887 there is an increase of 832,000 francs; the exports, however, show a decrease of 28,058,000 francs.

The "secret honeymoon" is the latest whim of New York Society. The groom leaves the route of the wedding journey entirely with the best man. Neither he nor the bride has the least idea where it is to be spent until he enters the steamer or train and opens an envelope.

The third annual flower show and fete held to encourage window gardening among the working classes of the neighbourhood, took place on Tuesday in the large field adjoining Lambeth Palace. The flowers, which made a very creditable show, comprised about 700 exhibits. Mrs. Benson in the evening distributed sixty-nine prizes.

The inquest into the death of the four persons killed in the railway accident at Hyde Junction, near Manchester, previously reported in the Press, has been concluded. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death, and recommended that communication cords should be attached to all passenger trains.

Some boys were playing at Sunderland, near the railway line which leads to Newcastle, when one of them named Jackson, in attempting to walk on the span of the bridge, stumbled and fell on to the line. He was too much stunned to rise, and a coal train came past and cut the little fellow's head completely off.

At Marlborough-street Police Court Le Comte Serristori, attaché to the Italian embassy, was summoned by a cabman for a shilling, balance of a cab fare. Mr. Hannay informed the complainant that as the defendant was attached to a foreign embassy he had no jurisdiction, and he had better apply to the Italian Ambassador.

A number of members of the Huguenot Society of London visited Norwich this week, and were received by members of the town council. The Guildhall, the Castle, and other places of interest in Norwich were inspected, and in the afternoon a special service was held in the cathedral, when a sermon was preached in French by the Rev. J. Lepelley.

At the annual meeting this week of the Royal College of Music, Prince Christian presiding, it was stated that the institution was progressing very satisfactorily. Mr. Samson Fox, of Leeds, has presented the college with £20,000, with which a new building will be erected upon a site that has been granted by the commissioners of the exhibition of 1851.

On Tuesday morning cries for help were heard from the Victoria Park bathing lake. Immediately a Mr. Polter ran on to the diving-board, and, without waiting to divest himself of his clothing, plunged in and swam to the assistance of an unfortunate man, named Holmes, and effected a very creditable rescue amid loud applause from a few spectators.

A Pietermaritzburg telegram states that operations have been commenced against the insurgent Zulus by a coast column under the command of Major McLean, John Dunn accompanying the force with a native contingent. Diniuzulu's force was estimated at 2,000 men, but his Usutu followers are stated to have deserted. The position is believed to have greatly improved.

The bath and grounds of Ashby-de-la-Zouch Spa were formally opened by the mayor this week. The baths were originally erected by the Marquis of Hastings, and are supplied with saline and mineral waters pumped from a depth of 1,000 feet. They have been reopened to commemorate the Queen's jubilee, and are part of a scheme for reviving this historic spa.

At Westminster Police Court a carpenter, named William Herbert, has been committed to the Central Criminal Court on a charge of burglary at the Aquarium Tavern, Tothill-street, Westminster, and stealing therefrom between 47 and 48. He had been formerly employed at the tavern. His only defence was that he was tempted to break into the place by the weakness of the door of the house.

A centenary dinner in aid of the philanthropic society, under whose management a farm school at Redhill is carried on, took place on Tuesday night at the Hotel Metropole. The Earl of Onslow presided, and read a telegram from the Prince of Wales stating that the society had his best wishes. His lordship said that the Government recognised the defects in the existing law with regard to reformatory schools, and the desirability of removing those defects.

The bishops reassembled at Lambeth Palace on Tuesday, and after Litany in the chapel, at eleven o'clock, discussed the reports of the committees appointed on the various subjects debated in the first week of the month. Nearly every English bishop was present, and the new Suffragan Bishops of Bedford and Leicester took their seats for the first time, as did the Bishop of Nova Scotia and one or two prelates who had not arrived for the first group of sessions.

At Southwark a barmaid was charged the other day with stealing sixpence, the money of her employer, Mr. Brooker, of the Royal Fort Tavern, Bermondsey. The taking at the bar unaccountably decreased, and the prisoner was spoken to about it. There was no improvement, and then money was marked and passed over the bar by a detective. On being searched the marked money was found on the prisoner. The prosecutor did not press the charge, and it appeared that the prisoner's antecedents were highly respectable.

A former employer stated that he would take the girl back into his service, and she was discharged.

Jennie Jenkins, of Orlando, Fla., is 105. The old lady chews tobacco.

Lord Randolph Churchill intends remaining in the Pyrenees about five weeks.

The Central Asian Railway is to be extended to Herat, via Sarakhs.

The man who was mysteriously shot at near the Baltic Saw Mills, Tunbridge Wells, is dead.

More than 23,000 have been stolen from the post office at Ravers in Poole. Several arrests have been made.

Australians fancy our Herefords. There are some commissioners over here from the colony who are buying the best cattle of the breed in the market.

A friend—who does good anonymously, and doesn't desire it fame—has sent £2,500 to the Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen for a second hospital ship.

The high sheriff of Lancashire has fixed Tuesday, August 7th, as the date for the execution of Jackson, the murderer of Warder Webb in Strangeways Gaol.

Despite the fog of some parts of the English coast last week, the number of shipwrecks was not greatly increased, being twenty-four, of which nine were British-owned vessels. Ten lives in all were lost.

Acting on suggestions made by the Imperial to the Canadian Government, the chief analyst of the Dominion has analysed Canadian cheese, and reports it to be perfectly pure and free from all adulteration.

Seven men have been suffocated by a fire which had occurred in a disused shaft in the Magny-copet, Montceaux-les-Mines, France. Two children have been rendered orphans through the disaster.

Three crowded boats, containing fugitives left the village near Dalrasa Island, on the Nile, on the 20th inst., during the attack made by the Dervishes, subsequently sank. The people on board, numbering 150, were drowned.

A wake was held over the body of Mrs. Malley, a labourer's wife, at Wolverhampton. A scene of great dissipation followed, and during the orgie the candles at the bedfoot were upset, the bedclothes ignited, and the corpse badly charred.

The body of a man, name unknown, was found near Uxbridge, on the down line of the Great Western Railway, the head being twenty yards off. The deceased was apparently about 50 years of age. He is 5 ft. 6 in. high and of sallow complexion.

It is significantly announced from New York that the executive committee of the Irish Parliamentary Fund there have announced that they intend to send a further sum of \$5,000 to Mr. Parnell, "with assurances of renewed confidence in his policy."

A Cairo telegram states that a messenger from Omdurman reports that the Khalifa Abdulla, having heard of the White Pasha in the Bab-el-Gazelle, intended to march against him. The messenger adds that the pasha is believed to be Emin.

On the arrival of a London train at the South-Eastern Railway Station at Dover on Tuesday, the engine was found bespattered with blood. A search was made, and portions of a human body were discovered on the line near the Channel Tunnel Works.

While John Gibson, a constable, was going his rounds in Washington-street, Glasgow, three unbroken roughs rushed at him and kicked him so brutally that he lay in the street, and, on being conveyed to the infirmary, was pronounced to be in a dangerous state.

It is understood that as a result of the communications between this country and Turkey in relation to the forts which the latter, contrary to treaty engagements, has been erecting on the Tigris, an understanding has been arrived at, Turkey agreeing to construct no further works.

It is stated that the Conservatives and Unionists of the Rotherham Parliamentary Division intend to bring forward at the next election the Marquis of Hartington as a candidate in opposition to Mr. A. H. Dyke Acland, M.P., to endeavour to wrest the seat from the Gladstonite party.

The benchers of the four Inns of Court have declined to accede to the request of the Incorporated Law Society that solicitors should be placed on the same footing as barristers with regard to passing from one branch of the profession to the other.

A coroner's jury at Bolton has returned a verdict of wilful murder against Margaret Davies, who threw a lighted paraffin lamp at Isabella M'Donnough, a young married woman, at Bolton, a short time back, inflicting terrible injuries that caused her death.

At the Malton Agricultural Society's Show, one of the largest and best collections of horses ever seen at a district exhibition in England, and almost equaling the Royal and county shows, competed. The quality of the horses, particularly the roadsters, coaching horses, and hunters, was remarkably high.

The return just made to the Northern Iron Trade junction Board for the past two months shows a very gratifying improvement in the iron trade, the output of rails, plates, bars, and angles being considerably larger than in the corresponding period of last year, and the average price reaching £4 13s. 1d. per ton, which is £1. 5d. per ton higher than previous prices.

A meeting of the Board of Missions of the Province of Canterbury was held this week in Sion College, the Primate presiding. A large number of American and colonial bishops attended, and the subject of foreign missions was discussed at some length. It was strongly urged that information was much needed at home as to the needs of places abroad.

Mr. E. R. Burtt, civil engineer employed by the corporation of Oxford in connection with the waterworks, sued Mr. Thomas Hawksley, in the Queen's Bench Division, for £284, being two-fifths of fees paid to defendant, which plaintiff claimed under an agreement for the aid he had given in works. Defendant denied the agreement, and, after a two days' trial, the jury found for plaintiff for the amount claimed.

The Incorporated Society of Authors, on Wednesday night, gave a dinner to American men and women of letters at the Criterion Restaurant, Piccadilly, in recognition of their efforts in the cause of international copyright. Professor Bryce, M.P., presided, and the Hon. J. Russell Lowell, replying on behalf of "Literature," referred to the friendly relations between England and America.

The German Emperor on Monday witnessed a sham fight at Krasnoe Selo in the presence of the Czar and a brilliant gathering. The troops consisted of fifty-two squadrons of cavalry, with artillery in proportion. After the operations the Grand Duke Nicholas told his staff that the Emperor William had charged him to express his hearty thanks to the troops for the great pleasure they had afforded him.

An important addition was made to the Royal Navy on Wednesday by the delivery from the contractors of the new first-class battleship HMS Parc, which has been built by the Thames Iron

A PARNELLITE MEMBER ARRESTED.

Mr. J. J. O'Kelly, M.P. for Roscommon, was arrested on Tuesday night, in the City of London, under the provisions of the Crimes Act. He left the House of Commons shortly after eleven o'clock, and took train from Westminster Bridge to Marylebone. Two detectives entered the same train, and arrested him as he was getting out. The warrant under which he was arrested charged Mr. O'Kelly with inciting certain persons at Boyle, county Roscommon, not to give evidence before the court of inquiry established under the Crimes Act. Mr. O'Kelly was handed over to two members of the Irish constabulary, and taken to Whitehall Place, and thence to the Westminster Palace Hotel, where he passed the night. No attempt was made to prevent his friends from seeing him, and on Wednesday he was taken to Chester by the quarter past one train from Euston, and thence by the Irish mail to Holyhead en route for Dublin.—Mr. O'Kelly, in his speech at Boyle on Sunday, June 24th, for which he has been arrested, said, as reported in the *Freeman's Journal*, that the Coercion Act might be said to have broken in the hands of the men who were trying to use it. There was great hope in the mind of the Government that by the institution of these infamous Star Chamber courts the people of the country might be induced to secretly betray one another—to secretly and in a cowardly manner do in the dark that which they would not have the courage to do in the face of day. The power and the use of that Star Chamber resided in the power of secrecy, in its power of darkness. Once remove that element from it, and it was harmless. They had heard what happened in Gurteen on the previous day. The men when they were brought before the inquisition court, said that rather than recognise that court they would go to gaol, and they had gone to gaol.

His Previous Career.

Dobrett's "House of Commons" gives some particulars of Mr. O'Kelly's career. He was born in 1845, educated at Dublin University, and at the Sorbonne College, Paris; and served some time in the French Army, until he retired as captain. He was subsequently one of the editors of the *New York Herald*, and in 1873 volunteered to proceed as war correspondent to Cuba. While there he visited Cespedes and the Cuban rebels, and upon returning to the Spanish lines was arrested, tried, and sentenced to death as a suspected filibuster. He was, however, saved from the Spanish bullets by Señor Castellar, and afterwards took part in the war against the famous Sioux Chief, "Sitting Bull." Subsequently, he accompanied the Emperor of Brazil in his journey from Rio de Janeiro through the United States, and in 1885 he went to the Soudan with the intention of joining the Mahdi. He represented county Roscommon as a Nationalist from 1886 to 1888, and has sat for the Northern Division of county Roscommon since the end of the latter year.

Arrival in Dublin.

Mr. O'Kelly, M.P., arrived at Kingstown on Thursday morning by mail-boat, accompanied by Dr. Kenny and Messrs. Sheehy and Leahy. He was taken on by the morning mail-train to Boyle, where he was charged before a resident magistrate, and remained on bail for a week.

BRUTAL WIFE MURDER.—DEATH SENTENCE.

At the Essex Assizes at Chelmsford on Wednesday, George Sergeant, 29, was indicted for the wilful murder of his wife, Annie Sergeant, at Wakes Colne, near Halstead, Essex. The prisoner had been a navy on the Great Eastern Railway, but was dismissed and then turned poacher. He behaved in such a brutal way to his wife that she left him, and went to live with her father and mother at a farmhouse close by. He was often heard to threaten her if she did not return, and early on the morning of the 17th of July he went to the farmhouse and struck at her behind the right ear with a clasp knife. The poor woman's screams brought in her mother and sister, who acted with great courage in keeping the would-be assassin from the wife. Meanwhile the victim had escaped to another room, but her husband followed her, and flinging the other women aside seized his wife, and, holding her head between his legs, slashed at her throat with the knife, nearly severing the head from the body. He then kicked her on the head in a most brutal manner, and fled. He was immediately sentenced to death.

CLEVER CAPTURE OF BURGLARS.

About half past three on Tuesday afternoon two men were seen to leave the Red Lion public-house in the Market-place, Waltham Abbey, and to proceed down Sewardstone-street. The men were not known to the landlady, and her son, a moment or two afterwards, found that his mother's bedroom had been entered. He immediately gave information to the police, and Inspector John Dowty at once sent a constable after the men along Sewardstone-street, while he himself went in another direction. Meeting a cart the inspector hired it to drive him to the hamlet of Sewardstone. The officer proceeded in the vehicle covered with a sack, and when a little past the path he got out of the cart and took another young man with him as a dummy prisoner. He then proceeded along the footpath, and meeting the two men, they stood aside in order to allow the inspector and his "prisoner" to pass. The inspector then let his "prisoner" go, and caught the two men, one of them, however, managing to effect his escape. The man the inspector was successful in apprehending was taken to the police-station, whilst the other man was chased by another constable. At the police-station Mr. Dowty found on the prisoner £70 in gold, £3 12s. in silver, and 10d. in bronze, along with a jemmy and two skeleton keys. Proceeding to the Red Lion, the inspector found that the money had been taken from a drawer in the lady's bedroom, and she did not know it had been stolen until then. Wednesday was the day on which the brewer's traveller was to call, and this accounts for the money being in the bedroom.

THE THAMES WATERMEN AND NATIONAL DEFENCE.

A deputation of the watermen and lightermen of the Thames waited on Wednesday upon the court of the Watermen's and Lightermen's Company in reference to the question of national defence. The deputation consisted of Mr. W. F. Drew (chairman of the company), Mr. F. Wigington (general secretary of the Lightermen's Society), and several working watermen elected by and representing the watermen. The object of the deputation was to lay before the court a scheme propounded by the men, whereby the services of the Thames watermen may be utilised for the defence of the Thames and its estuary at the shortest possible notice. The following proposition was submitted to the court:—"That this deputation, representing the watermen and lightermen of the Thames, respectfully desires the co-operation and support of the Worshipful Court of Watermen and Lightermen's Company to promote, under Government control, a defence force, consisting of the commonalty of the company, subject to the same regulations and payable under the same conditions as her Majesty's Royal Naval Reserve." The master, Mr. Robert Grey, said the court would give the proposition of the deputation its favourable consideration at the next meeting of the full court, and he was sure they would be happy to co-operate with the commonalty of the company in any national and patriotic scheme for the defence of the nation.

A BURGLAR IN A TANK.

Early on Wednesday morning the premises of the Magna Mineral Water Works at Loughborough junction were entered by burglars, one of whom fell into a 10ft. tank which was more than half full of water. When discovered shortly after six o'clock the man was half dead, he having had the greatest difficulty in keeping his head above water. On being rescued he became insane, and after examination by a doctor, it was found necessary to convey him to St. Thomas's

THE DOUBLE MURDER ON BOARD A TRANSATLANTIC LINER.

The Guion steamer Arizona, from New York, has brought full particulars of the double murder which occurred on board the National Linesteamer Erin, previously briefly reported in the *People*. The steamer was ten days out from London for New York, when on the 9th inst. Patrick Kelly, an able seaman, stabbed to death two of his shipmates—John Chapman and John Parry, of the starboard watch—as they lay in their bunks in the forecastle of the steamer. The men were not fairly awake, and they had not a moment's warning of the fate that was so suddenly and cruelly to overtake them. The five men composing the starboard watch had turned in at four o'clock that morning. Their quarters are in the lower forecastle, in the bow of the vessel, and the bunks are arranged on either side, two tiers on a side, and five bunks in each tier. Kelly slept in the bunk directly over Parry. Nothing occurred to disturb the slumbers of the men until shortly after seven o'clock, when John Whitaker, an able seaman, who slept in the bunk next to Kelly, heard a man groaning. At first he thought one of the men had nightmare, but the groans came again. It was the voice of a man in mortal agony. Now fully aroused, Whitaker leaned over the side of his bunk and looked in the direction from which the sounds came. There were two oil lamps and a lantern burning in the forecastle, and by their light Whitaker saw his two shipmates deliberately murdered before his eyes. Kelly was standing by Chapman's bunk, a lower one just forward of Parry's. The assassin's left hand was buried in Chapman's hair, and his right hand clasped something which appeared half

Buried in the Left Breast

of the prostrate man, who was shuddering convulsively in the death agony. Chapman's face was covered with blood. Just then Parry awoke, and, rising on his elbow, looked full at Kelly. The latter suddenly withdrew his huge sheath knife, which he had plunged to the hilt in Chapman's breast, and with two bounds he was at Parry's side. Before the man could make a motion Kelly had him by the throat, and stabbed him to the heart. With a deep groan Parry sank back in his bunk, and his murderer, coolly withdrawing his knife, wiped it on one of Parry's shirts which happened to lie in the bunk. Whitaker, who is a little man, was a helpless witness of the murder of his shipmates. He jumped from his berth when he saw Parry attacked, and ran around the mess table to the port side, where John Harris, another seaman, who had just tumbled out of his berth, was looking on in horror. "My God, what is the matter?" he cried. "Can't you see?" responded Whitaker;

"Murder has been Done;" yes, two murders."

Kelly glared at the men, but did nothing, and after wiping the knife he walked to the forecastle gangway, ascended to the main deck, then up through the forecastle scuttle to the spar deck, and, walking aft, he ascended the bridge where the chief officer, Mr. Easton, stood. Kelly handed the knife to Easton, with the words, "Two men have been stabbed in the forecastle, and there is the knife that did it." On the forecastle gangway Kelly was passed by seaman William Hunt, who went to call the port watch, just as seven bells sounded. Kelly had hardly informed officer Easton of the stabbing when Hunt appeared to confirm it and added that Kelly was the assassin. Kelly was immediately placed in irons, and locked in one of the after deck houses, and two men set to watch him night and day. For the remainder of the voyage he made no resistance, but submitted meekly. Engineer John Simpson constructed some irons, and Kelly was manacled hand and foot. After Kelly left the forecastle, Whitaker crossed to Parry's bunk, and called his name. Placing his hand over the wounded man's heart, he found still a faint pulsation, but it ceased almost immediately, there was a gurgle in the throat, and Parry was dead. Chapman died a moment later. Captain William Tyson, who was at once informed of the stabbing, came into the forecastle, and at his request Whitaker prepared the bodies of his murdered shipmates for burial. They were sewed in two canvas hammocks and consigned to the ocean on July 9th. Kelly is a powerful man, standing fully 5ft. 8in. in height, and weighing nearly 200lbs. He is as muscular as a prize-fighter, and was the most powerful seaman on the ship. Cedulae are in the same position—very risky ones. Chatham seem to have lost all life, but you may as well hold on to a bit.

THREATENING TO MURDER MR. GLADSTONE.

At Liverpool Police Court on Thursday, Francis Eggen Clottenham, a young German, was charged with threatening to murder Mr. Gladstone. The prisoner, who was in business in Liverpool as an agent for the sale of condensed milk and other articles, wrote a pamphlet a little while ago on the necessity of sanitary reform in infant rearing. He sent the original manuscript to Mrs. Gladstone at Hawarden without having kept a copy, and asked to be allowed to dedicate the work to Mrs. Gladstone. After the lapse of some time Clottenham asked for the return of the manuscript, and was informed that Mrs. Gladstone could not lay her hand on it, and was afraid it was lost. The prisoner, who seemed to have been driven into frenzy by this statement, wrote to Mr. Gladstone and Mr. W. H. Gladstone. In the latter communication he threatened to take Mr. Gladstone's life. The prisoner did not deny writing the letters, and in his office was found a copy of another letter, threatening that Mr. Gladstone should not see his golden wedding unless the manuscript was at once returned. Evidence having been given of the arrest of the prisoner, he made a wandering statement that he wished to compel Mr. Gladstone to put him in a court of law. The prisoner was then remanded.

CONSERVATIVE PETE AT EDMONTON.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE PEOPLE."

Sir,—In your report last Sunday you state that Lord Folkestone was not present at the fete, or speeches would have been made. On this point you have been misinformed. In justice to his lordship I am able to say that he was present the whole afternoon, until about six o'clock, and was quite willing to make a speech had it been thought necessary for him to do so. The statement—"the only help the committee received towards the expenses connected with the club was £100 from Lady Folkestone," is also wrong. Lord Folkestone, as president of the club, has been a subscriber throughout, and very generously gave a good sum towards furnishing the club.—Yours, &c., HENRY T. DREW, Hon. Sec.

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IN THE SWIM.

BY A CITY SHARE.

Although only a small contingent of speculators have yet left the scene of their exciting labours, business has considerably diminished. This always happens just before the holidays; he must be a bold man, indeed, who cares to keep a large book open on the eve of knocking off work. Prices are, nevertheless, maintained at much the same level as last week, except in the American department, which has had another smart rally. It is the only market in which I should care to have a speculation for the rise running during the holiday season. International bonds, South American securities, English rails—do they not all show abundant signs of flagging? Their spurs die out at once for want of solid backing; no one believes in their lasting power; even the most sanguine prophets go no farther than timid predictions covering a day or two. So potty has the business in English rails become that the brief spell of tolerably fine weather at the beginning of the week was actually made an excuse for forcing no prices a trifle. In the case of Metropolitan and District, there is some faint show of reason for higher quotations. The shareholders of both lines seem resolved to bring about amalgamation, whatever the directors may say, and should this wholesome revolt succeed, Underground shares cannot fail to become more valuable. But the project is being still in the infant stage, I see no reason for hurry. As Lord Beaconsfield observed in another connection "many things may happen" before the Underground interest becomes one and indivisible. Hull and Barnsley have again been taken in hand by the knowing division, who affect to know for certain that a good thing is about to come off. I rather suspect that it will take the form of their own enrichment at the expense of such suffer themselves to be duped into buying. Some day or other the line may be bought by some big railway for strategic purposes, but unless an extremely fancy price is paid, ordinary shares will not be worth a farthing more than the current quotation. The furor for South American bonds of the better class has somewhat abated, but they remain very strong owing to most of the recent purchases having been for investment. Argentine Fives are still worth buying on the chance of being paid off at par to carry out a conversion operation. This is sure to take place before long, and for those there are, who can content themselves with a small profit, the speculation is tempting enough. For myself, I prefer standing on an American rail. The rise does not as yet show any signs of exhaustion; on the contrary, the American buying this week has been of an exceptionally heavy character, while large blocks of shares have also gone to Berlin and Paris. On the other hand, the "bear" account is considerably reduced, thus diminishing one important element of strength in the upward movement. Looking at the matter round, however, and balancing pros and cons, I believe that the rise will continue, subject to occasional checks, throughout August. There is certainly no other iropeal of speculation which holds out equal promise to buyers.

A FRIEND IN DOUR.—Tolerably safe, but full high at the present quotation, having been rigged up lately by a Paris ring.

M. H.—It is supposed to be in a somewhat shaky condition.

LEONARD.—The speculation would be enormously risky.

I should be very sorry to buy the shares at anything near their present price.

W. T.—I have nothing to say to the concern; it is perfectly safe.

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THE THEATRES.

ST. JAMES'S.

With regrets too deep to allow of adequate expression through appliance, the crowded and distinguished audience of the St. James's Theatre on Saturday listened to the words of farewell addressed to them by Messrs. Harcourt and Kendall. In phrases the more eloquent for their simple directness, the two managers, one after the other, gave voice to their gratitude, not only to the public which appreciated their artistic efforts but to the actors, officials, and servants, whose unswerving zeal and energy had gone far to bring new productions to a successful issue. Both managers bore eloquent tribute specially to Mrs. Kendall, to whose graceful gifts as actress and keen intelligence as stage director the popular favour they had won was primarily due. The one item of news in these parting speeches was communicated by Mr. Kendall, in stating that during the ensuing tour with Mrs. Kendall through the English provinces it was their intention to produce a new and original play, specially written for them by Mr. Pinero. At the conclusion of the speeches the audience lingered in their places as if reluctant to be parted from a dramatic association which for nine years had ministered with such exquisite artistic sympathy to their intellectual delight.

Saturday, the 4th August, is the date fixed for the opening of Mr. Mansfield's season at the Lyceum with his dramatisation of "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde."—The Daily comedians close at the Gaiety next Tuesday, and proceed to Stratford-on-Avon, where they give a single representation of "The Taming of the Shrew," at the Memorial Theatre, after which they go to the Loyalty Theatre, Glasgow.—The success achieved by the performances of "Alice in Wonderland," at the Prince of Wales's last Saturday, will lead to the revival of this prettily finished child's entertainment at the same theatre next Yuletide.—Mr. J. L. Toole is really "rating" at Alles-Bains.—A special feature of the revival of "The Ticket-of-Leave Man," at the Olympic in September, will be the impersonation of the scapge, Sam Willoughby, by Miss Jessie Lee (Jo).—Miss Eva Wilson is to take the place of Miss Norreys in "Sweet Lavender" in September.—The ever-courteous business manager of the St. James's, Mr. Huy, received from Mr. Kendall as a parting memento of good service a handsome scarifin in form of a lucky horseshoe with the nails indicated by diamonds.—Two of Mr. Zola's novels, "Abbe Mouret's Fault" and "Nana," are to be used as libretti for opera. It may be devoutly hoped that they sound better than they taste.—"Philanthropy" is the title of the new farce to precede "The Still Alarm" on the first night of its production at the Princess's.—Mrs. Smale (Miss C. Elliott) will appear in a new play written by herself at a matinee in September.—"Atlanta" is the title of the new farcical comedy, written by Mr. G. P. Hawley, to be brought out at his brother's theatre in the course of the winter season.—Miss Lydia Thompson takes a burlesque company to America in October for a thirty weeks' engagement.—Miss Fortescue will shortly start upon a provincial tour.—A new comic opera, entitled "Geraldine," written by Mr. A. R. Watson, was successfully tested lately at the Greenwich Theatre.—The memoirs of Mr. Mapson, the operatic manager, will be published in September.—An English company is playing "Our Boys" and "On Change" at the Boulogne Theatre.—It is said that when the new Grand Theatre, Islington, is reopened in November, Mr. Wilmot will take Mr. Freeman, his manager, into partnership.—An effort is being made to form the proprietors of the Bedford and Star Music Halls into a limited liability company.—A commendable version of "Mr. Barnes of New York" was produced at the Elephant and Castle Theatre on Monday. It is by Mr. H. C. Edwards, and some amusing comedy scenes were introduced by Mr. Jourdain.—An interesting theatrical action has just been decided in a French court of law. An actress in a burlesque troupe objected to wear tights, and the manager refused to pay her salary. The judge decided against him, on the ground that the obligation to show one's legs was not of necessity a part of the dramatic profession."

CAMBRIDGE MUSIC HALL.

A substantial entertainment is just now drawing crowded audiences to Mr. W. Riley's comfortable East-end resort. The Two Maids are here with their laughter-raising absurdities, their ludicrous attempts at conjuring being highly relished. Miss Bella Black sings in a charming manner "Coming thro' the rye," and other ballads. A clever acrobatic display is tendered by the Kellino Troupe, and Sergeant Simms' troupe of boy-soldiers go through military manoeuvres with precision and smartness. Pretty and clever bicycle feats were well executed by Messrs. Lotti, Lillo, and Otto, all three young performers. Miss Florrie Gallimore sings capital songs; she has a fine voice, and is an expert dancer. Miss Jessie Hill is always popular here, and the audience appreciate her spirited essays. Miss Jessie Bellwood vanishes the class of staple of which she is the recognised exponent. Little Flossie, a juvenile artist, makes a successful appearance; she possesses a clear voice and delivery, and dances well. Mr. Arthur Lloyd and Mr. Sidney Barnes may be coupled together as a pair of humorous comedians. And Mr. Fairburn's character essays are interesting. Two capital turns are supplied by Professor Thornbury, cartoonist, and Mr. Arthur West, comic. Miss Florrie Heywood brings the entertainment to a close with commendable serio-comedy. The entire entertainment, under the supervision of Mr. E. V. Page, never lacks originality.

BIRCH THE BOY DAILY TILL HE GOES TO SCHOOL.

At Woolwich Police Court on Wednesday Alfred Steele was summoned by the School Board officer for not sending his son to school. The boy's mother pleaded that he had passed the fifth standard, and would be 13 years of age next May. He would, therefore, be exempt before the next examination, and would, she considered, be wasting time at school. The School Board officer said the law required the boy to be at school until he was thirteen.—Mr. Sheil: Very well; I'll give the father a penny, without costs.—Richard Langridge was similarly summoned, and his wife said the boy in question had passed the sixth standard, and would be thirteen years in December, but the School Committee would not allow him half time, because his father was not out of work.—In answer Mr. Sheil, the officer declined to withdraw the summons.—Mr. Sheil: Fired a penny, and make haste to pay it, or there will be a distress which will cost 4s.—Joseph Suffield, a ship's carpenter, pleaded as an excuse that his boy would not go to school. Mr. Sheil: Then flog him.—Defendant: And be brought before you for cruelty.—Mr. Sheil: Not so; give him six strokes of the birch rod every day, and about the fourth day he will be glad to go to school. I will make an order now for his absence.

LAND LEAGUE TYRANNY IN IRELAND.

Threatening notices have been posted on the chapel gate at Bradford, county Limerick, denouncing a schoolmistress and some young girls for having sat to be photographed with policemen. One of the latter had made himself specially "obnoxious" by giving evidence in the prosecution of a clergyman under the Crimes Act.

"A Tour in Old Flanders," embracing some of the less known Flemish cities, forms a feature in the new issue of the Great Eastern Company's illustrated "Tourist Guide to the Continent," edited by Mr. Percy Lindley.

A verdict of suicide while temporarily insane was returned last week in an inquest on the body of Charles Bainbridge, 38, a painter, of 24, St. Martin's-street, Leicester-square, who poisoned himself with sugar of lead.

VOLUNTEER GOSSIP.

[Communications intended for this column should be delivered at the office not later than 6 p.m. on Thursdays.]

The last of the Wimbledon meetings proves beyond question that the N.R.A. has done its part in developing the shooting qualities of Volunteers. It will perform just the same duties if next year they meet in Staffordshire, at Pirbright, or anywhere else. Whenever and wherever the association offers rich prizes to be competed for, there will be the best marksmen congregate. If the association desires to squander away the reserve fund it has at its disposal, it can buy land almost anywhere within fifty miles of the metropolis suited for its purpose. But if it wishes to husband its capital no one knows better than the secretary of the association that its future junctings can be held at Pirbright, without any drain being made on the finances of the association.

There is nothing like hitting straight out from the shoulder, when either writing or speaking on any one particular subject. There are some misguided persons who are constantly writing about Richmond Park, as the future site of Volunteer gatherings. It is better at once to quash all this nonsense. The association may as well try to hold their annual in Hyde Park as there. The thing resolved itself into this: You must either go into the Midlands or to Pirbright.

By the way, I am told the members of the North London club have a hankering after Pirbright because the mirage there is almost similar to that at Park, and then there would be a chance for some of their best men to show well up in the annual national competitions. I am not one of those who encourage such selfish notions, but I do go in for Pirbright because military discipline would be maintained there, and although there would be no gate money, better shooting results would be obtained than has been the case at Wimbledon.

Of course attention is just now being drawn to the forthcoming meeting of the N.A.A. at the Olympic in September, will be the impersonation of the scapegoat, Sam Willoughby, by Miss Jessie Lee (Jo).—Miss Eva Wilson is to take the place of Miss Norreys in "Sweet Lavender" in September.—The ever-courteous business manager of the St. James's, Mr. Huy, received from Mr. Kendall as a parting memento of good service a handsome scarifin in form of a lucky horseshoe with the nails indicated by diamonds.—Two of Mr. Zola's novels, "Abbe Mouret's Fault" and "Nana," are to be used as libretti for opera. It may be devoutly hoped that they sound better than they taste.—"Philanthropy" is the title of the new farce to precede "The Still Alarm" on the first night of its production at the Princess's.—Mrs. Smale (Miss C. Elliott) will appear in a new play written by herself at a matinee in September.—"Atlanta" is the title of the new farcical comedy, written by Mr. G. P. Hawley, to be brought out at his brother's theatre in the course of the winter season.—Miss Lydia Thompson takes a burlesque company to America in October for a thirty weeks' engagement.—Miss Fortescue will shortly start upon a provincial tour.—A new comic opera, entitled "Geraldine," written by Mr. A. R. Watson, was successfully tested lately at the Greenwich Theatre.—The memoirs of Mr. Mapson, the operatic manager, will be published in September.—An English company is playing "Our Boys" and "On Change" at the Boulogne Theatre.—It is said that when the new Grand Theatre, Islington, is reopened in November, Mr. Wilmot will take Mr. Freeman, his manager, into partnership.—An effort is being made to form the proprietors of the Bedford and Star Music Halls into a limited liability company.—A commendable version of "Mr. Barnes of New York" was produced at the Elephant and Castle Theatre on Monday. It is by Mr. H. C. Edwards, and some amusing comedy scenes were introduced by Mr. Jourdain.—An interesting theatrical action has just been decided in a French court of law. An actress in a burlesque troupe objected to wear tights, and the manager refused to pay her salary. The judge decided against him, on the ground that the obligation to show one's legs was not of necessity a part of the dramatic profession."

We all know that the Prince of Wales is hon. colonel of the Honourable Artillery Company, and also of the Norfolk Militia. The public duties he is called upon to perform are so onerous and so numerous that few like to ask him to break his well-earned repose. But still if he would only visit Shoeburyness just for once in a while, he would certainly earn the gratitude of all Artillery Volunteers.

A curious paragraph has been going the round of the papers to the effect that officers appointed to the command of Volunteer brigades shall have the rank of brigadier-generals. Any officer who is placed temporarily in command of more than one regiment is for the time being a commander of brigade, and therefore a brigadier. The title is little more than honorary, and in the regular service is a brevet one, for immediately the officer falls back to his regimental command he drops the title altogether. I have known in actual warfare a young lieutenant-colonel to take the rank of brigadier, until a more experienced hand has been gazetted to the post. Death plays strange havoc with rank at times.

I am rejoiced to find the Government are really in earnest on the question of Volunteer transport. It will be interesting to know what will be the result of the experiment which is to be tried by the Volunteer corps. Certainly without transport, or, in other words, a properly organised system of supply, the Volunteers as a body would be almost useless. The difficulty the Government have to contend with, however, is the supplying of the whole force with transport, which could only be done at an enormous expense, unless farmers and carriers voluntarily consented that on certain occasions they would lend horses and wagons to the Volunteers at a price which should not be prohibitive. Perhaps they might be induced to do so if Mr. Goschen were to tell them that they would be exempt from the wheel tax.

That reminds me! A number of gentlemen have been visiting our seaports with a view to ascertaining how much the local authorities would be willing to contribute towards the defence of their towns. It seems to me the Government want these people to pay for the defence of Imperial interests and again for their own private interests in particular. Such a scheme is to me a novel one. That the Volunteers should be utilised for the defence of harbours and coasts in their own district no one can doubt, but that the residents of a district should be called upon to pay a tax over and above that which every citizen has to contribute towards the maintenance of the services is a very novel proposition, and one which present does not command itself to my way of thinking.

Among Wimbledon events not in the Wimbledon programme, one of great interest took place in the Scottish camp a day or two before the close of the meeting. Colour-sergeant Mortimer, one of the oldest and most respected members of the London Scottish Rifles, and the secretary of the Middlesex Rifle Association, was taken agreeably by surprise on the day referred to by a deputation from the Glenalmond School, who came with a request that he would accept a "golden" silver claymore for himself of a valuable diamond and pearl ring for M. Mortimer, together with the most cordial good wishes for both of every present in past Glenalmond boys. Colour-sergeant Mortimer has for ten years past coached the Glenalmond Wimbledon team who have had a record during that period in the Public Schools' Match.

The official answer about magazine rifles is but another illustration of the utter untruthfulness of many items of military news which are daily bashed up for the edification of the British public. In the month of April, although it was repeatedly stated magazine rifles were to be issued at once to the Army, I was aware that not half a dozen had been manufactured. As I then stated, so I repeat now, a few are to be manufactured for purely experimental purposes, but there is no prospect of any large number being constructed this year. There is a diversity of opinion among the officers who have the matter in charge with regard to the mechanism of the weapon, and until this is removed and further improvements introduced there is very little probability of the War Office recommending the issue of them to the Army.

VOLUNTEER REGIMENTAL ORDERS.

2nd London.—Drill: Tuesday at 8 p.m., Somerset House, half battalion and recruits; Thursday, at 8 p.m., Gaillard, half battalion and recruits; Saturday, at 8 p.m., practice, no recruits only. Musketry: Class-drill and practice on Monday evenings. There being a few vacancies for the Aldershot detachment, members desirous of going whose names are not yet in, should apply at once.

1st London.—Company and recruit drill on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 8 to 10 p.m. Special drill of D and E Companies on Wednesday. Class-drill at Rainham on

Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. No class-drill on Saturday, range being engaged by Mr. Loudon's rifle meeting. The Middlesex—Special drill on Monday evenings at 8 p.m.; plain clothes, with rifles. Officers commanding companies are requested to detail two sergeants, and all members requiring battalion drills to attend. Members will have an opportunity of firing their rifles prior to the commencement of the drill. The Aldershot detachment will be detailed on days, No. 2000 Corporal E. Murphy, D Company, is appointed lance-sergeant. The rifle range at Wormwood Scrubs, on Wednesday, at 8 p.m.; plain clothes, with rifles. Officers commanding companies are requested to detail two sergeants, and all members requiring battalion drills to attend. Members will have an opportunity of firing their rifles prior to the commencement of the drill. The Aldershot detachment will be detailed on days, No. 2000 Corporal E. Murphy, D Company, is appointed lance-sergeant. 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FRIDAY'S PARLIAMENT,

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Indecent Publications.

Lord MOUNT-Temple called attention to the impunity with which large numbers of indecent publications and photographs are sold or distributed illegally to young persons. His lordship asked whether the public prosecutor might be instructed to take proceedings in the more important cases of the breach of this branch of the law. There were newspapers which made money by printing indecent matter. Then there were translations from French works, including some very hideous novels by a man named Zola. He hoped the matter would receive more attention.—Lord BIRKBECK rejoiced that the noble lord had brought the subject before the House. Such literature was distributed for the purpose of corrupting the minds of young girls; for the purpose of misleading young men; and for making money by the sale of improper appliances, &c. Anything that tended to undermine the moral fibre of the people was hurtful to the nation.—Lord SELBY-BORNE did not think there was a more prolific source of corruption than that under discussion.—Lord BROWNLAW, replying on behalf of the Government, said the practice when the attention of the Home Office was called to any indecent publications was to refer the matter to the Commissioner of police, who took the necessary steps. He could assure their lordships that the question was looked upon as an important one.—The Lord CHANCELLOR explained that the Attorney-general was the public prosecutor, and might institute a prosecution if he thought it was necessary. But he (the Lord Chancellor) thought it was unsafe to undertake a prosecution where there was doubt as to proof, as it often gave an injurious notoriety to the subject.

Richmond Park for the Volunteers.

Lord WANTAGE drew attention to a petition which had been presented to the First Commissioner of Works, with reference to the granting of a portion of Richmond Park as a site for the annual meeting of the National Rifle Association.

He hoped that if the decision as to whether the Volunteers were to have the use of Richmond Park was in their favour, the Government and the Commander-in-chief would assist them in furthering the objects of the Rifle Association. They asked to have the use of 230 acres in Richmond Park for shooting purposes for a fortnight in the year, and he contended on national grounds that it ought to be granted. He believed that the range was as safe as any that could be obtained in this country. He stigmatised as a calamity the assertion that the 250,000 volunteers in the country would lay down their arms if the use of Richmond Park was not granted for their annual shooting. The petition in favour of the use of Richmond Park was signed by sixty-three members of the House of Lords, and 102 members of the House of Commons.—Viscount BUSBY supported the views of Lord Wantage.—The Earl of MEATH opposed the Richmond Park scheme, believing that an equally suitable site might be obtained elsewhere without interfering with a public park.—The Duke of CARNARVON denied that he was the person who had led the opposition to the Richmond Park scheme. He was as great a friend to the National Association as the noble lord; and if he was convinced that no other places but Wimbledon or Richmond could be obtained he might have approved of them, but he could not imagine that in this country it was impossible to get another site where the shooting could be conducted in the same manner as at present. When the Queen was asked by Lord Wantage about Richmond Park she said she had no objection to its being used, provided the authorities who had to deal with the matter were under the impression that no evil would be done to the public. Her Majesty had put the question to himself, being the Ranger, and upon consideration he thought the park was undesirable as a rifle range. This decision he had communicated to Lord Wantage. He also told him that he thought the time had come when all shooting should take place away from villas, gardens, and residences. For twenty-eight years he had allowed the shooting to take place at Wimbledon, and therefore he could not be said to have been very grasping.—After some remarks from Lord Wemyss, Lord CHELMARSHAM said he thought it would not affect the character of rifle shooting in this country if the Rifle Association died to-morrow.—Lord SALISBURY said he could not give any definite answer to the question of his noble friend, as the matter would have to be carefully considered by the Government before they could give their decision. He could not but think that the tone of the speech of Lord Wantage, who represented the Rifle Association, was unfair, as he appeared to think that the position of affairs was the result of hostility to and want of confidence in the services rendered by the Volunteers. He did not think there was any want of appreciation on the part of the people of this country. The Rifle Association had been driven from Wimbledon not through hostility, but because of the causes of action which were going on, owing to the fact that the ranges of rifles were being extended. The responsibility of deciding this question would rest with the Government. Her Majesty's name had been mentioned, but in this matter, as in all others, she would leave the responsibility with her advisers.

Leap from a Balloon.

Earl BROWNLAW, in reply to a question by the Earl of Milltown, said that the attention of the Home Secretary had been called to the announcement that a Professor Baldwin would leap a thousand feet from a balloon at Alexandra Park on Saturday. The police had been told to make inquiries, and to warn people who would be held responsible for the serious consequences that might ensue. There was no legislation to prevent adult from indulging in foolish and dangerous feats. There had, however, been cases where such feats had been prevented, as when Blondin was going to wheel a child in a barrow along a rope at some considerable height from the ground.

The Local Government Bill reached the Upper House a few minutes before One o'clock, and was read a first time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Hours in Government Workshops.

Mr. STRANHOPE, replying to Mr. C. Graham, said that not eight hours but nine and a half hours was recognised as the ordinary working day in the Government workshops, Enfield not excepted.

—Lord G. HAMILTON stated that the average working day of men employed in dockyards was eight and a half hours, but the day of the men in the works department averaged nine and a half hours.—Mr. BAILEY said in the Post Office the hours of attendance ranged from six to ten hours per diem. In answer to Mr. Lawson, he said efforts were being made to reduce the working hours in the Post Office as far as possible. (Hear, hear.)

Arresting Members of Parliament.

Mr. J. E. ELLIS asked what was the object and who was responsible for the placing this week of a number of detectives within the precincts of the Houses of Parliament; and whether it was correct that the authorities of Scotland Yard had decided that arrests should be made "after dark."—Mr. MATTHEWS: I am informed by the Commissioner of police that no extra detectives have been placed within the precincts of the House, and that no such decision has been arrived at as is stated in the second part of the question.

—Mr. H. WILSON: Are we to understand that there are no extra detectives about?—Mr. MATTHEWS: There have been for a considerable time past detectives stationed in the neighbourhood of the House.—Mr. SELBY-BORNE asked if the Government would facilitate the passing of a bill to remove from Irish members the special penalty that seemed to attach to them (of being arrested in

stead of summoned) for performing their Parliamentary duties.—Mr. MATTHEWS was not aware of such a penalty.—Mr. R. BRADFIELD asked if there was any difficulty in a summons being issued in Ireland and sent over to England in the usual way.—Mr. MATTHEWS said the jurisdiction of a magistrate was confined to his country by statute.—Mr. MATTHEWS, in answer to Mr. J. E. ELLIS, stated that there was the same force of detectives about the House this week as last week.—Sir W. HAROUR said it was quite clear that a summons issued in Ireland would not be of such legal stringency in England. Where a person was resident in Ireland, however, and only came here to attend to his Parliamentary duties, would there be any objection to issue a summons in the fact, and give him an opportunity of attending there?—Mr. BALFOUR did not think there was any precedent for the course suggested, and if it was supposed that members of that House would attend to such a notification, he was sorry to say that the experience he had had in such matters was that they would act directly opposite to what was required. (Hear, hear.)

The Local Government Bill.

The report stage of the Local Government Bill was resumed.—On the 31st clause, an amendment, moved by Mr. LAWSON, giving the county council power to promote and oppose bills in Parliament, was negatived by 162 to 138.

—On the 50th clause, Lord Derby, Mr. SHAW, LEFEVRE, Mr. J. L. WHARTON, Mr. F. MOWATT, and Mr. JOSEPH B. HENLEY, were appointed commissioners under the Act. A large number of amendments were disposed of, and the consideration of the bill as amended was completed at half past twelve o'clock. The bill was then recommitted for the insertion of a few formal amendments, and these having been reported to the House and agreed to, Mr. RITCHIE moved the third reading of the bill.—Sir WILLIAM HAROUR congratulated the House on having reached that stage. All must recognise the ability, temper, conciliatory demeanour, and strong common-sense of Mr. RITCHIE in carrying a measure of this magnitude through the House.—The bill was then read a third time amid cheers.

THE DEPRESSION IN THE HOP INDUSTRY.

The following letter has been addressed by the First Lord of the Treasury to Colonel BROOKFIELD, M.P. for the Rye Division of Sussex:—"House of Commons, 19th July, 1888.—My dear Mr. Brookfield, I have mentioned your request to my colleagues, and they feel great sympathy, as I do, for the industry which is so seriously affected, but they do not think they could now undertake on behalf of the Government to consent to the appointment of a select committee on the condition of the hop industry next session. It is in their judgment necessary that a case should be stated to the House on a motion to be made on a Tuesday or Friday, which would afford some indication of the scope and objects of the inquiry contemplated, and the Government would listen to their friends behind them with sympathy and interest, and they would gladly concur in the appointment of a committee if the course proposed appeared to be a practical one after debate.—Yours very truly, W. H. SWINN."—In view of this communication, and of the fact that Mr. Brookfield has twice secured a day for a motion on the state of the hop industry, which has afterwards been taken by the Government, the hon member has urged that an opportunity for discussion might still be afforded during the present session. Failing this, it is his intention, with the approval of other members interested in the question, to ensure a full discussion upon the whole subject of the hop industry at the commencement of the autumn session.

The Present Outlook.

The *Kentish Observer* on Thursday says:—Although the weather during the last five or six days has been more suitable for the hop plants, it has not improved to the extent that could be desired, and the gardens are not looking so well as they ought to do at the end of July. There is a good deal of mould about, and fly and lice are prevalent in many grounds, the succulent state of the bine being conducive to their propagation. East Kent is decidedly better off than the other divisions of the great hop country. Mid Kent and the Weald being much afflicted with mould and vermin, besides which there is a very large proportion of weak and spindly bushes. The Sussex grounds are also in an unsatisfactory condition, though they have slightly improved since last week. Our report from Worcester is more favourable. Good progress has been made during the week, and the little blight that exists does not cause planters any anxiety. According to present appearances the most favoured districts this season are Worcester and East Kent. Our reports from the continent continue to record unsettled and ungenial weather, with an excessive rainfall. The growth of the plants, consequently, is slow, and on the whole the prospects are not so bright as could be wished at the end of July. In America the crop is going on well, and a heavy yield seems to be expected, particularly on the Pacific coast.

THE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST PARNELLITE MEMBERS.

It is reported that Mr. O'DONNELL intends to move for a new trial of his action against the Times on the ground of misdirection, &c., as soon as his health and opportunities will permit. Meanwhile he protests, it is said, against his interests as a suitor being prejudiced by party legislation, creating an irregular procedure, dealing with the subject matter of his case by name. It is stated that the Speaker of the House of Commons has received a letter from Mr. O'DONNELL notifying his intention to appeal for a new trial, and protesting against the unproved allegations of the leading counsel for the Times being assumed as basis for any legislative innovation pending such a trial.

AN ENGLISH PARNELLITE WITH A VENGEANCE.

A report is published of a violent speech said to have been delivered by Mr. COBB, member for the Rugby Division, at a public meeting held at Longmarston, near Stratford-on-Avon, on Wednesday night, and in the presence of Sir Walter FOSTER, M.P., and Mr. Winterbotham, M.P. Mr. COBB is reported to have warned the Government that if John DILLON died in gaol, it would not be the last death that would be caused by that occurrence, and one of two things would happen. The Irish people, if they were strong enough, would rise up and sweep away Dublin Castle, and all the wretched myrmidons there, taking their lives if it was more convenient to do so. If they had not force enough to do that, secret societies would arise and assassinations would occur. He did not advocate assassination, but he believed there had been cases in the history of the world in which assassination had been necessary.

A MISSING HUSBAND.

At Bow-street Police Court on Friday, Mrs. ARKWRIGHT, of Huntley-street, made an application in reference to her husband, who had been missing since the 17th inst. He was described as being 72 years of age, and at the time he left home was wearing a black suit of working clothes and a red cotton neck-tie. He is a man about 5 ft. 10 in. in height, with grey hair and whiskers.

THE DIVORCE COURT.

A Case Reheard.

In the Divorce Court, on Thursday, the re-hearing was commenced of the consolidated cases of Boyce v. Boyce and Boyce v. Boyce, which were reported in the *People* at the time of the first hearing.—In the first case, the husband, a driver in the service of the London General Omnibus Company, sought restitution of conjugal rights. In her petition the wife sought a divorce alleging cruelty and misconduct on her husband's part. The actions were tried last sittings before Mr. Justice BUTT, and, after a three days' trial, his lordship dismissed the prayer of Mrs. Boyce and granted her husband restitution of conjugal rights. After the delivery of that judgment Mrs. Boyce became very excited, and declared that sooner than live with her husband she would go to prison. A short time back application was made to a divisional court, consisting of the Lord Chief Justice and Sir James HANNAN for a re-hearing on the part of Mrs. Boyce, on the ground that further evidence of the alleged misconduct on the part of her husband had been discovered. It was generally understood then that Mr. Boyce admitted this, and the Lord Chief Justice stated that there must be a re-hearing, which now came on for hearing. Mr. Boyce again appeared in person, and Mr. WILLIS, Q.C., and Mr. SEARLE were for the wife.—At the outset of the proceedings Mr. Boyce asked for an adjournment, on the ground that his papers in the case were now withheld from him.—His lordship refused the application.

HOW HE MARRIED HER.

Mr. BOYCE then went into the witness-box and made a long statement, from which it appeared that he made the acquaintance of his wife through a matrimonial agency, the sum of £100 being paid to the manager for the introduction. They met first of all in Elgin Crescent, Notting Hill, and in 1886 they were married at Christ Church, Clifton. They went on the honeymoon, and subsequently there was a dispute between them, which ended in his filing a petition for restitution of conjugal rights. He alleged that fraud and conspiracy were closely interwoven in the case from start to finish. Referring to the further charge of misconduct alleged against him, in respect of which a new trial had been granted, he now stated that he did not intend to convey to the divisional court that he had stayed at the hotel with a woman in a criminal sense. He was "perfectly dumbfounded" at the time. His Lordship remarked that he had then unfortunately succeeded in deceiving everybody connected with the case, for it was generally understood that he meant to confess misconduct. It was not true that he had ever been unfaithful. Mr. Boyce repeated that he was dumbfounded at the time. He then went in detail through the history of his married life.

Some Admissions.

In cross-examination by Mr. WILLIS, Q.C., he admitted staying with a lady at the Wellington Hotel, Gloucester, on the 4th December, 1886. Asked what she was, Mr. Boyce replied, amid laughter, "That is for you to prove." He refused to disclose the name. Kate Collins did not go to the hotel with him.—His lordship said he could compel the witness to disclose the name or send him to prison, but he did not wish to resort to such an extreme measure.—Mr. Boyce said he kept a lady before marriage, and told his wife so. She acted honourably towards him. Had to see her at the hotel in regard to a monetary arrangement.—Cross-examination continued: The lady and he occupied different rooms, but they were adjoining. He slept on the sofa. If the lady passed as Mrs. Boyce, he knew nothing of this.—His Lordship: Do you still refuse to give up her name?—Mr. Boyce: I do. She behaved honourably towards me.—Cross-examination continued: He did not know her present address. Had not seen her since. He met her at the station, and took her to the hotel. He was first introduced to his wife through a matrimonial agency, £100 being paid for the introduction. Miss Walker, his wife's friend, gave him £1,000 prior to the marriage. During the honeymoon Kate Collins wrote to him. He did not swear at his wife. He admitted the misconduct to his wife before marriage. When he stayed at the Wellington Hotel, Gloucester, he did not tell his wife of this circumstance. Mrs. Boyce might have left his room and gone to that of Miss Walker's, but it was not owing to his cruelty. It was because she was hot tempered. On one occasion he pushed her down and held her by sheer force, but he did not press her throat. He did not see any marks upon her. The witness was then examined in detail as to the alleged cruelty.—Mrs. PHILLIPS, of Birmingham, gave evidence to the effect that on the 4th December, 1886, Kate Collins slept at the house.

Kate Collins in the Box.

—Kate Collins (against whom misconduct was alleged at the previous hearing) said that she was in communication with Mr. Boyce about putting her in a public-house at Westminster in November, 1886. She received a letter from him to come and see him via Gloucester. She denied that there was ever undue intimacy between them. He had been in his service for fourteen years. He had addressed her as "Jack" because in nursing him and in other matters he had called her "Jack of all trades." (Laughter.)—Cross-examined: She might have written to him a letter commencing, "Darling Baby" after his marriage. Mr. Boyce had told her that he was going to meet a lady at Gloucester. She knew the lady's name, but declined to state it. Had seen letters from her. He had had his meals with the witness when she kept the Star public house at Westminster. His name was put up at the beer-house. No impropriety of conduct ever took place between them.

The Wife's Case.

This being the close of the husband's case, Mr. WILLIS, Q.C., addressed the court on behalf of Mrs. Boyce, whom he afterwards called. She said that her maiden name was HUGHES. She had a lady friend, Miss WALKER, with whom she had lived for some time. She detailed a number of acts of alleged cruelty on her husband's part. He had sworn at her and thrown things at her. On one occasion he held her down and caught her by the throat. She afterwards consulted Sir William GULL. Boyce had also pushed her into a bath. She had not deserted him without reasonable cause.—The case was adjourned.

On Thursday night a special messenger was sent to Sir James HANNAN's house requesting his lordship's attendance at the Privy Council on Friday, consequently the further hearing of the consolidated action of Boyce v. Boyce—Boyce v. Boyce was postponed until Monday.

RALLI V. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

This was a suit instituted by Mrs. RALLI, widow of P. Constantine RALLI, of Finsbury-square, to have her marriage with that gentleman, celebrated on May 16th, 1850, at Hyde Park-square, the residence of the lady's father, by Narcissus MARINOS, a priest of the Greek Church, and according to the rites of that church, declared valid. Mr. H. B. DOANE was counsel for the petitioner, and Mr. LECHNIS for the Attorney-General.—The petitioner was called and stated the circumstances attending her marriage. She was married according to the rites of the Greek Church with the full consent of her parents, and that marriage had never been revoked or annulled. After the marriage she lived with her husband at Westbourne-terrace, and seven children have been born of the marriage. Her husband died on the 31st January, 1873, and for the interests of her children she was anxious to have her marriage declared valid.—Witnesses were then called, who were present at the marriage and who gave a description of the ceremony.—The Greek priest who celebrated the marriage was also called, and the register of the Greek church in which it was entered was produced.—After hearing the evidence, Sir James HANNAN pronounced a decree of validity of marriage.

COOPER v. COOPER.—In this case the wife sued for a divorce on the ground of her husband's cruelty and adultery. The husband answered denying the charges, and alleged condonation and afterwards

connivance. Mr. INDERWICK, Q.C., and Mr. SEARLE were counsel for the petitioner. The respondent appeared in person.—It appeared that the petitioner was the daughter of a gentleman of independent means, residing in Brunswick-square, Brighton, and she was married to the respondent, a gentleman on the Stock Exchange, at Brighton, on the 25th May, 1881. After the marriage she resided in Norman-square, London, with her husband. In July, 1883, the petitioner's father died, and she alleged that after that, and on various occasions, her husband ill-treated her. The adultery was charged as having been committed with a servant girl in the family, named Emily YOUNG, who was stated to have had a child, of which the respondent was the father, in January, 1887, and on this adultery having been ascertained, the present suit was instituted.—The respondent cross-examined his wife at considerable length. She denied positively that she was ever in the habit of taking too much brandy.—The affidavit of the girl Emily Young, taken on commission, was then read, which alleged that the child she gave birth to in January, 1887, was the respondent's.—Sir JAMES HANNAN stated that he was not satisfied with the cruelty, but the adultery with Emily Young having been proved, he should pronounce a decree of judicial separation, with costs, and ordered the wife to have the custody of the child of the marriage.

RADCLIFFE v. RADCLIFFE AND SOMERSET.

In this case the husband sought for a divorce on the ground of his wife's adultery with the corespondent, Mr. FITZROY SOMERSET.—There was also a claim for damages against the latter, but that claim was withdrawn, and the case was consequently undefended. Mr. INDERWICK, Q.C., was counsel for the petitioner, who was married at Liverpool to the respondent on the 4th November, 1880. The respondent was the daughter of a gentleman of independent means, residing at Liverpool, and she and the petitioner cohabited until March of the present year, when the petitioner received a letter from his wife, dated from the Inns of Court Hotel, and informing him that she had eloped with Charlie Somerset, as she could not longer endure to live with him. Inquiries were then made, when it was found that the parties had lived as man and wife at the Inns of Court Hotel, and evidence of that having been given, Mr. JUSTICE BUTT pronounced a decree nisi with costs, and ordered the petitioner to have the custody of the only child of the marriage.

MAUNSELL v. MAUNSELL AND DUTCHY.

Sir HENRY JAMES, on the part of Major DUTCHY, the corespondent in this divorce suit, made an application to extend the time for paying the damages (£2,000) into court. At the time of the trial the damages were ordered by his lordship to be paid within a fortnight. Sir HENRY said it was intended to apply to a divisional court to review the amount of the damages, and he now asked that the time for paying in the damages might be extended until that had been decided. After some discussion, it was arranged that the time should be extended to fourteen days from the present time.

A LADY MURDERED BY HER COACHMAN.

The trial has just closed at the assizes of the Seine et Oise, of Abel CHARRON, a lad of 19, who about two months ago murdered a lady named MADAME SAINTIN, in whose employment he was engaged as coachman. She was about 70 years old, and lived at Montreuil, a small town about twenty miles due south of Paris, in a handsome house in the High-street, with a garden at the back. Although she was very wealthy, her fortune being estimated at £200,000, she kept house on a very small scale, her only servants being a charwoman and young Abel CHARRON, who acted both as coachman and manservant. She herself did the cooking, and took her meals with the servants. She was a pious Catholic, and used to attend mass every morning during the month of May. The last time she went was on the 24th, and a couple of hours after she had returned a young man appeared at the Town Hall looking very much excited. He said his mistress had just been murdered, and he had seen the murderer jump down from the window. He ran after the man and overtook him, but the latter knocked him down and attempted to strangle him, and Abel CHARRON, for it was he, pointed to bloody fingermarks on his neck. Proceeding to Madame SAINTIN'S house, accompanied by gendarmes, the major found the body of that lady on the landing in front of her bed-room in a